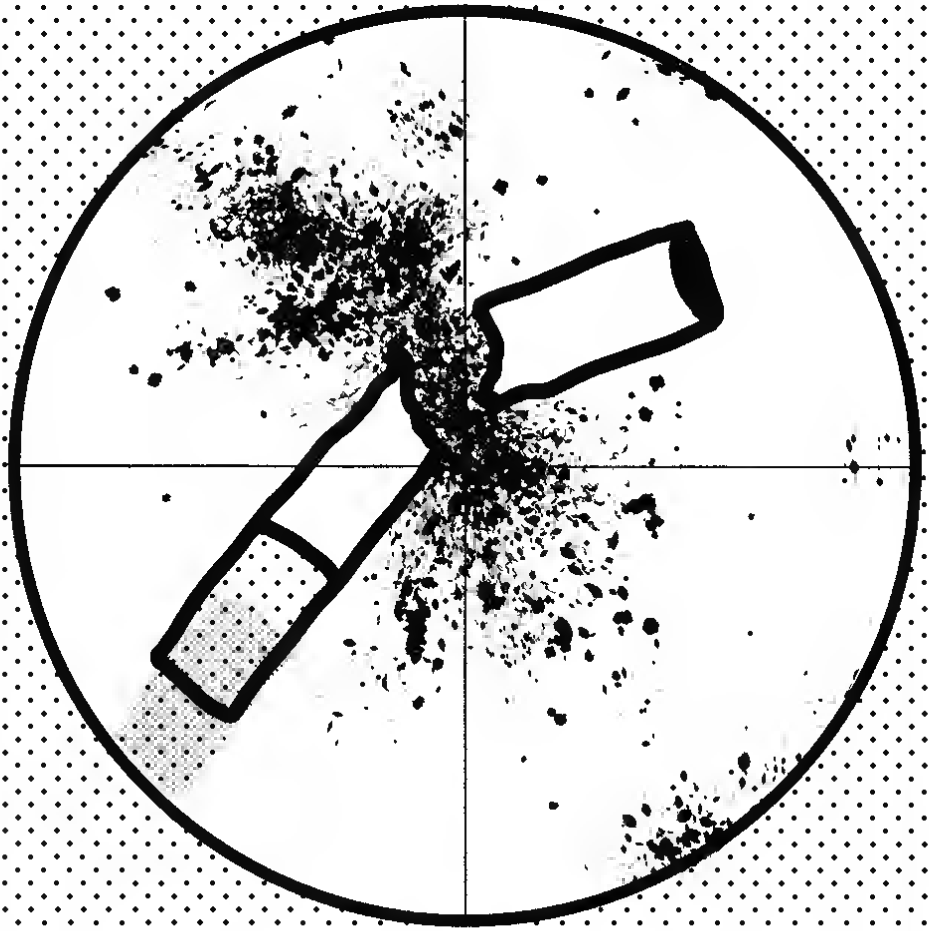
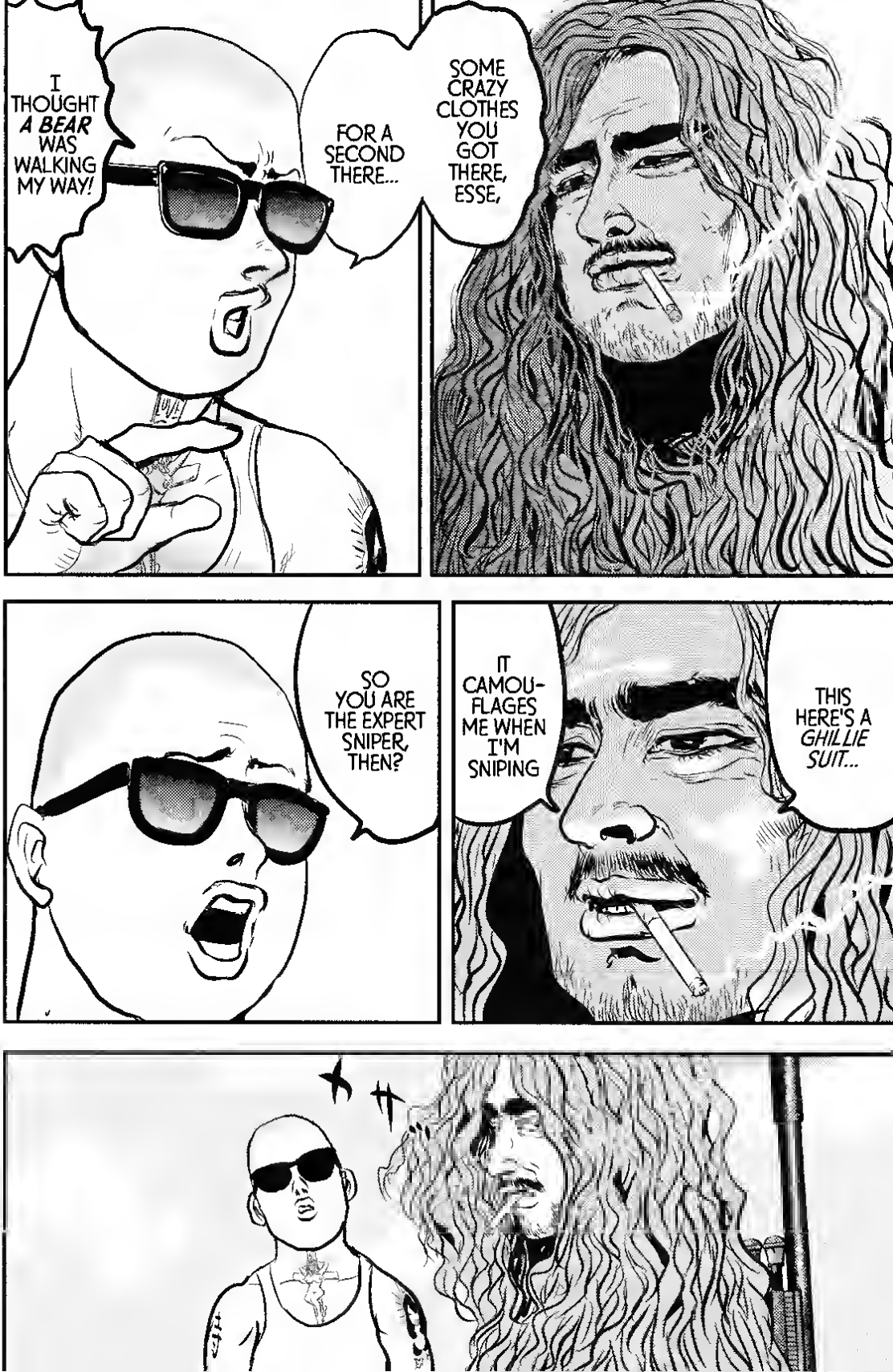
SHINICHI SUGIMURA'S EASY WAY TO STOP SNIPING

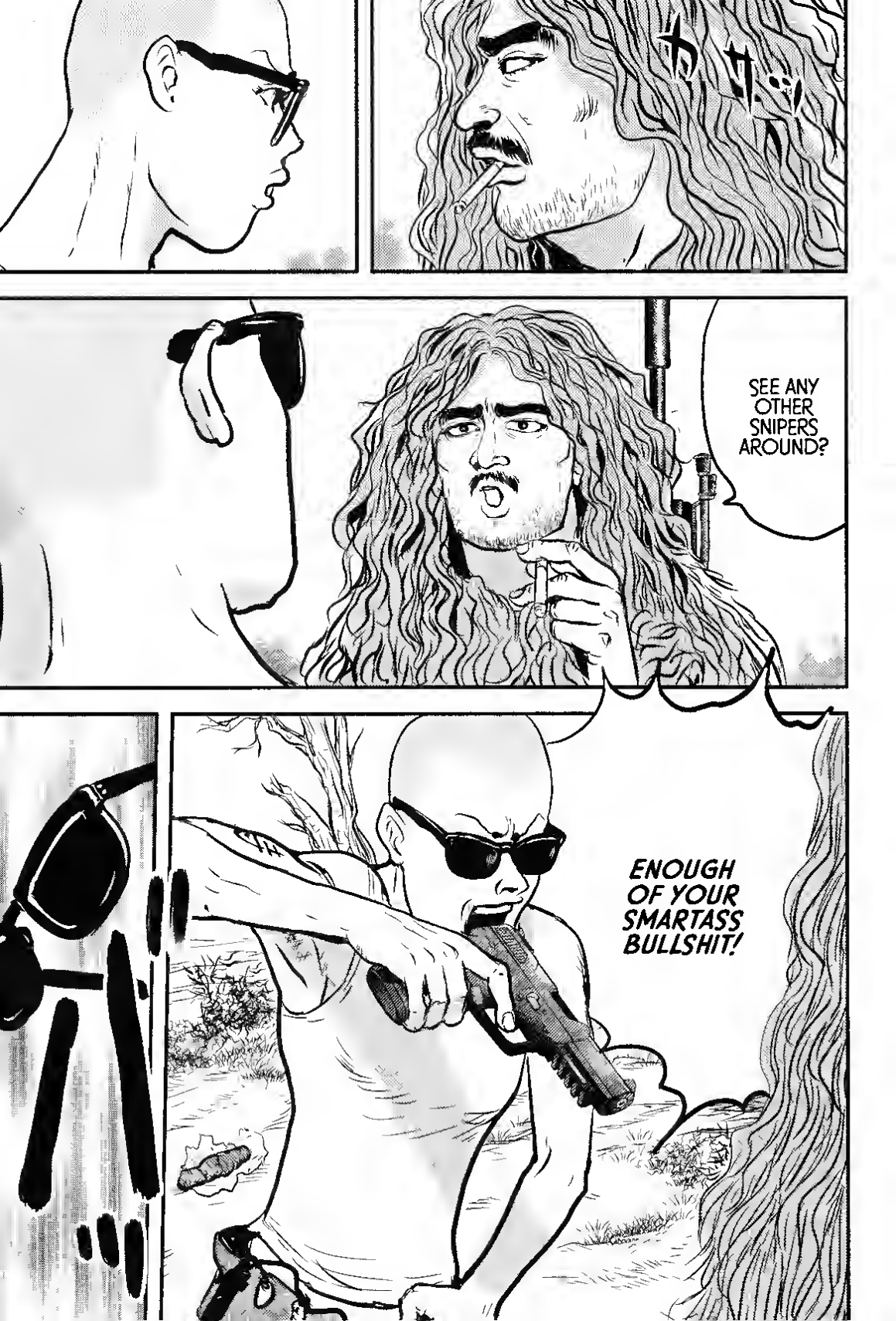


SQUARE ENIX

STOP!!
HOLD IT! STOP RIGHT THERE!
ERIKA
ガナーガナー

YOU THE GUY?
THE EXPERT SNIPER THE BOSS HIRED?
ARE YOU THE GUY?
THE THUG FROM THE THIRD-RATE DRUG CARTEL "TEJAS"?
THE FUCK YOU SAY?


I THOUGHT *A BEAR* WAS WALKING MY WAY!
FOR A SECOND THERE...
SOME CRAZY CLOTHES YOU GOT THERE, ESSE,
SO YOU ARE THE EXPERT SNIPER, THEN?
IT CAMOU-FLAGES ME WHEN I'M SNIPING
THIS HERE'S A *GHILLIE SUIT*...


SEE ANY OTHER SNIPERS AROUND?
ENOUGH OF YOUR SMARTASS BULLSHIT!

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT HOW GOOD YOU--
OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!
ACTING LIKE SOME BIGSH--
OW! OW! OW! OW! OW!

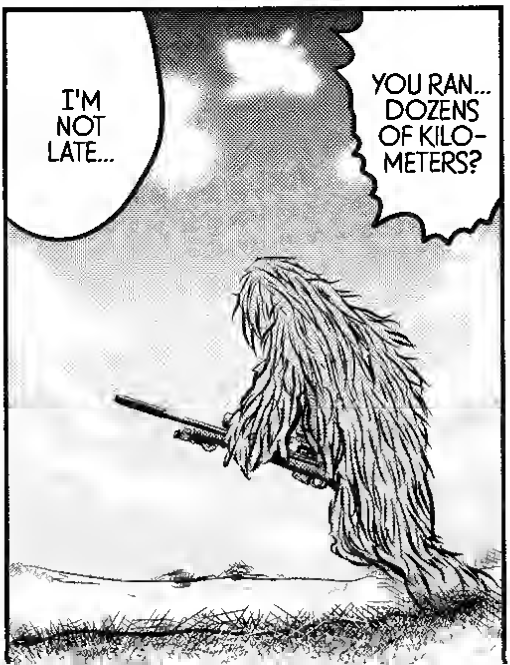
CUT IT OUT, THERE'S SHIT ON THE GROUND HERE! STOP!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT, YOU PASS, OKAY?!
OW!!

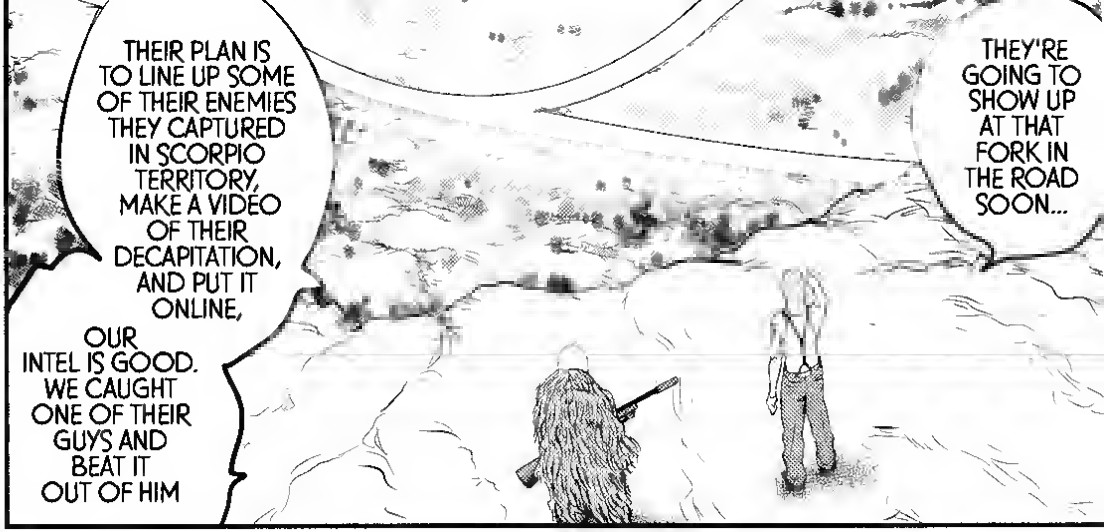
THE TARGET'S GONNA SHOW UP SOON!
NO TIME TO BE PLAYING AROUND!
ANYWAY, WE'RE OUT OF TIME!

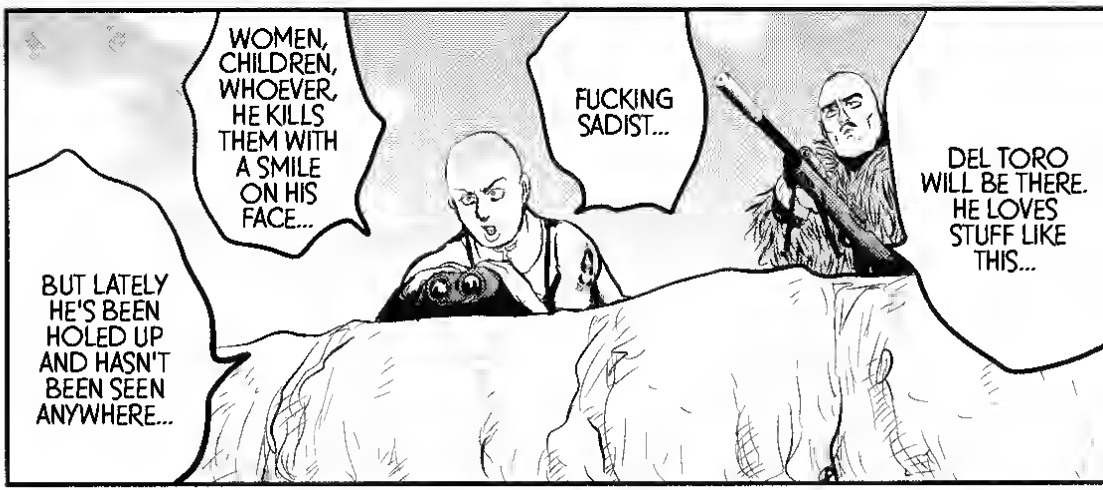
I RAN.

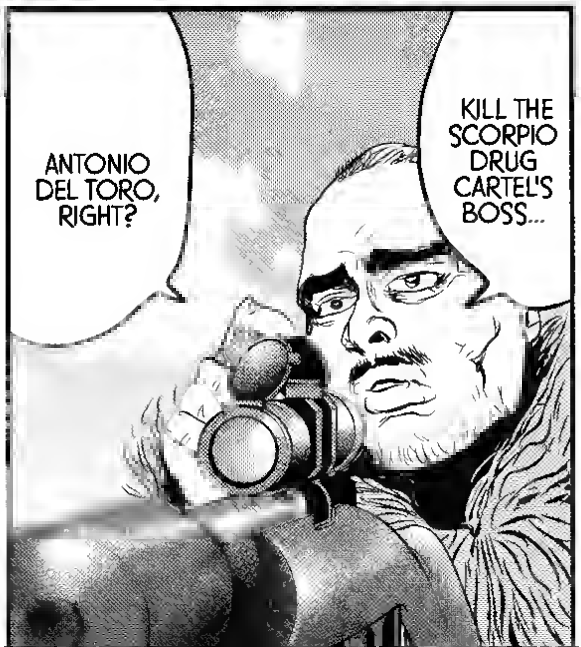
HOW'D YOU GET HERE ANYWAY?
YOU SURE TOOK YOUR SWEET TIME COMING HERE!

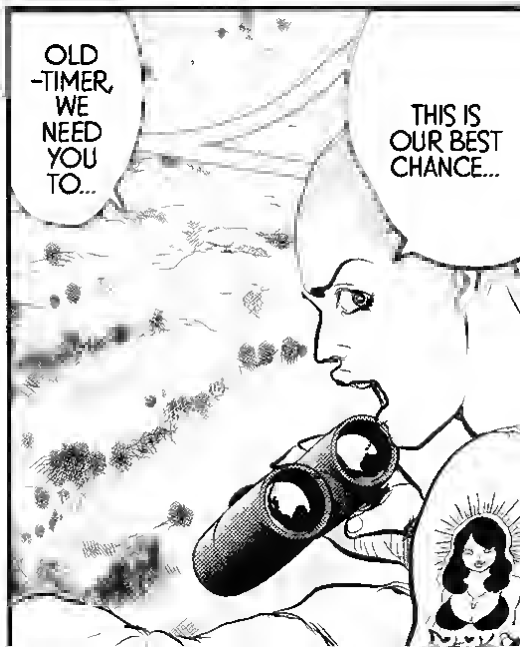
HOW OLD ARE YOU, MAN?!
BUT... MAYBE IT WAS A LITTLE TOO MUCH


I'M NOT LATE...
YOU RAN... DOZENS OF KILO-METERS?

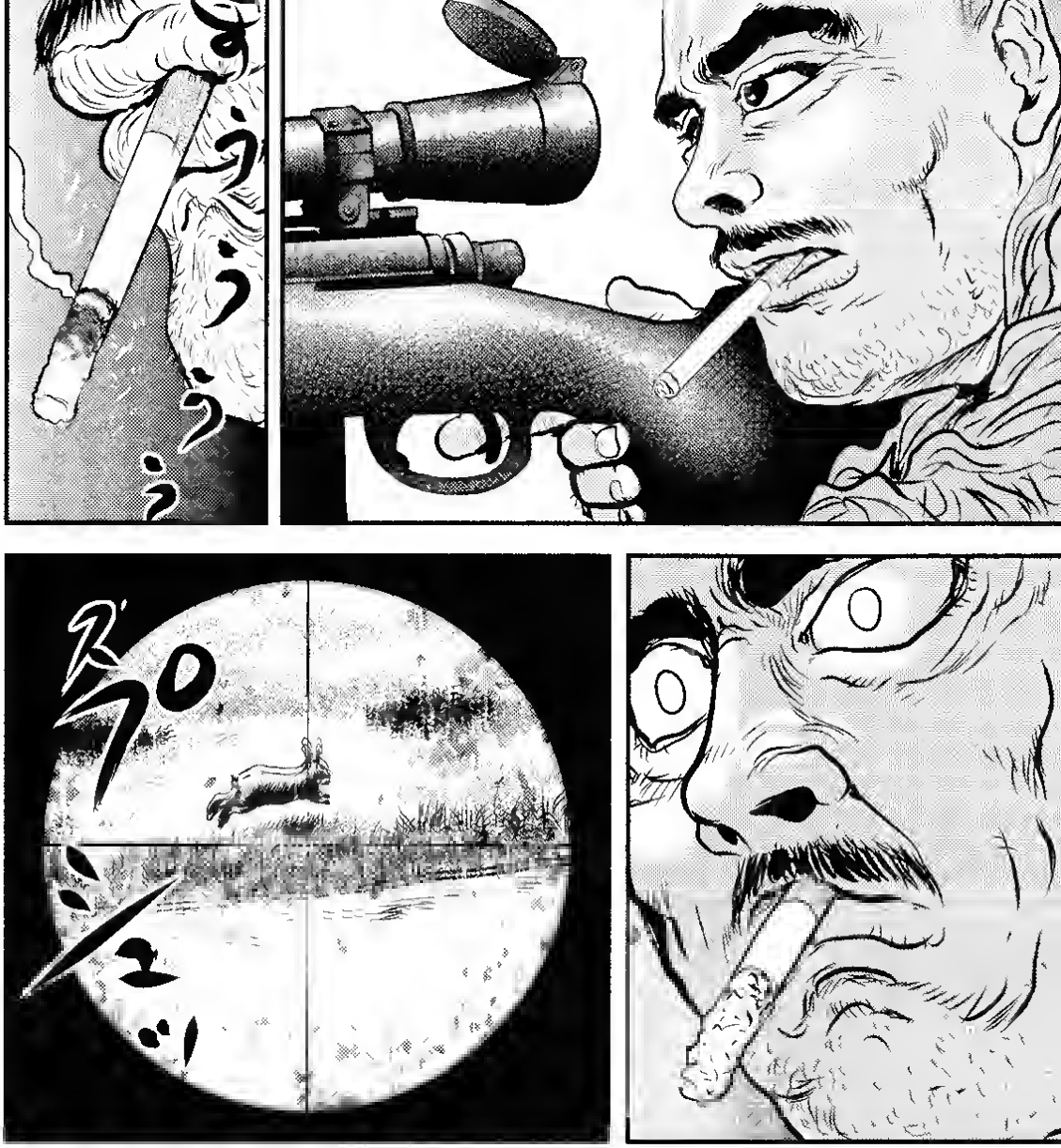

THEIR PLAN IS TO LINE UP SOME OF THEIR ENEMIES THEY CAPTURED IN SCORPIO TERRITORY, MAKE A VIDEO OF THEIR DECAPITATION, AND PUT IT ONLINE,
OUR INTEL IS GOOD. WE CAUGHT ONE OF THEIR GUYS AND BEAT IT OUT OF HIM
THEY'RE GOING TO SHOW UP AT THAT FORK IN THE ROAD SOON...


WOMEN, CHILDREN, WHOEVER, HE KILLS THEM WITH A SMILE ON HIS FACE...
FUCKING SADIST...
DEL TORO WILL BE THERE. HE LOVES STUFF LIKE THIS...
BUT LATELY HE'S BEEN HOLED UP AND HASN'T BEEN SEEN ANYWHERE...


ANTONIO DEL TORO, RIGHT?
KILL THE SCORPIO DRUG CARTEL'S BOSS...

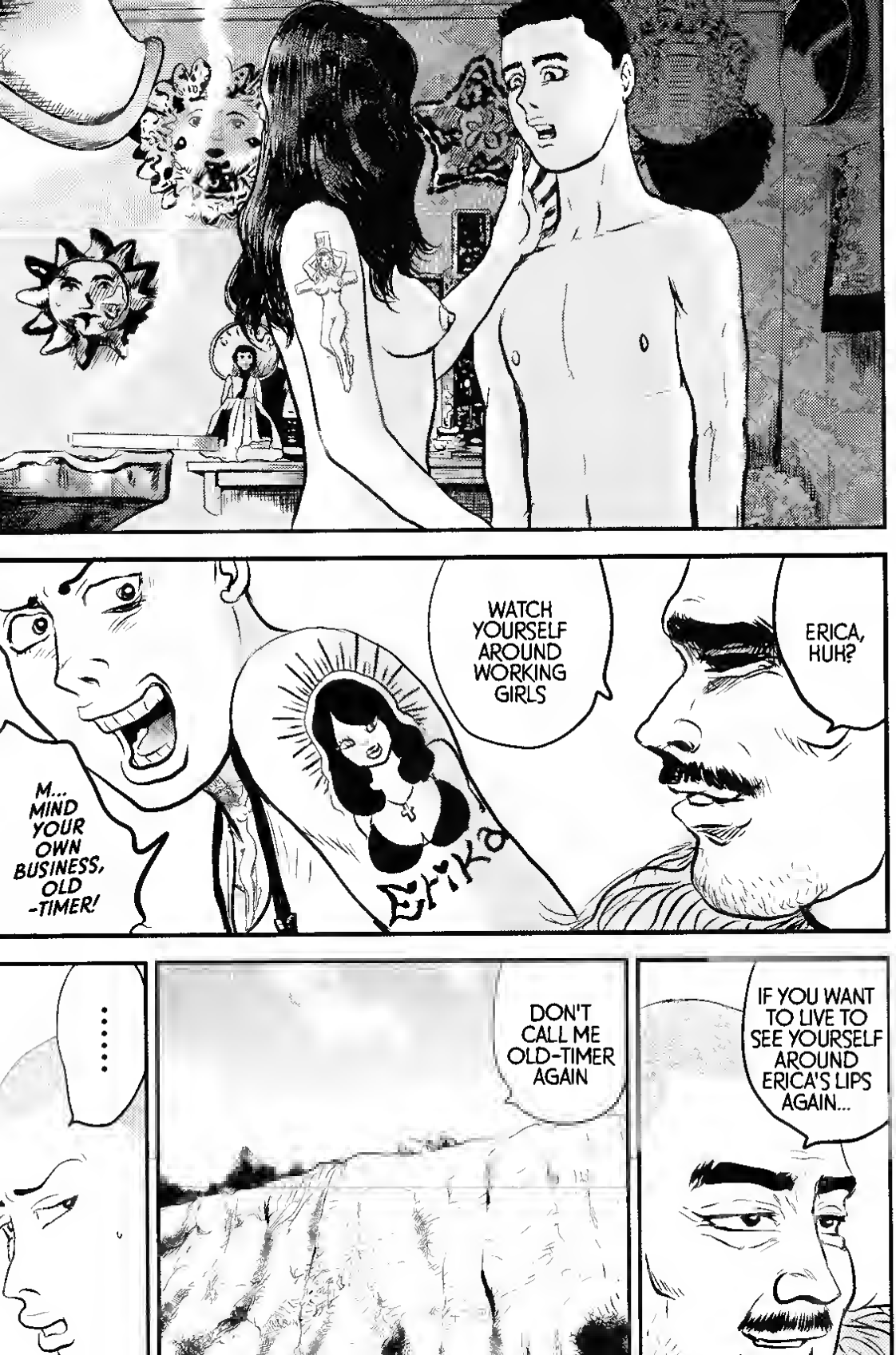

OLD -TIMER, WE NEED YOU TO...
THIS IS OUR BEST CHANCE...

YOU'LL DO IT, RIGHT?!
WITH HIM OUT OF THE PICTURE, WE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE!!
BLOW THAT BASTARD DEL TORO'S BRAINS TO BITS!
YEAH, IN ONE HIT!
HUH?
A RABBIT.
ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE ROAD

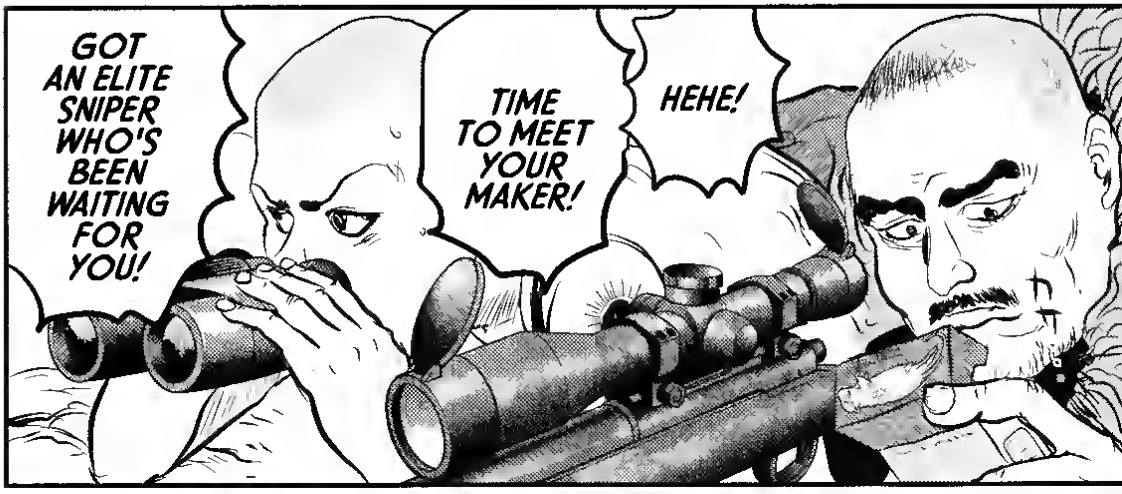

WOAH!
THAT RABBIT TURNED TO DUST!

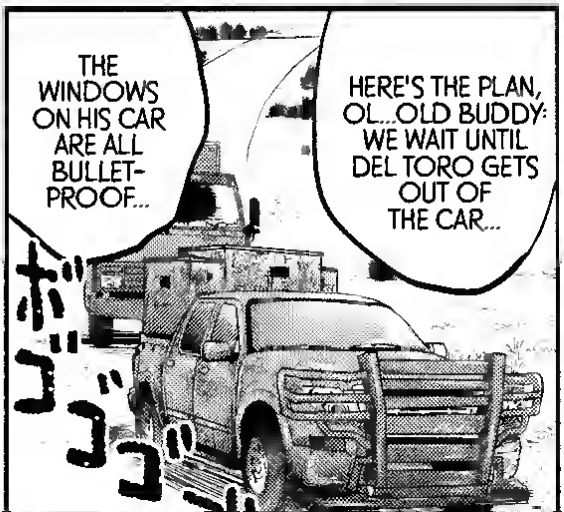
THAT WAS CRAZY, OLD -TIMER!
NO WONDER YOU WERE IN AN ELITE UNIT IN THE MILITARY!
HMPH!
THE MILITARY AIN'T EXACTLY OUR FRIENDS, AFTER ALL
BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU TOOK THIS JOB...
I'LL KILL DEL TORO...
AND QUITTING SMOKING
PUT OUT MY LAST CIGARETTE, AND CALL IT QUITS ON ALL THIS
THEN LEAVING THIS COUNTRY...
I'M QUITTING AFTER I TAKE YOUR DIRTY MONEY...

SINCE I HAVE ASTHMA
I NEVER SMOKED TO BEGIN WITH...
MAYBE I SHOULD QUIT SOMETHING, TOO...
THAT'S KINDA BADASS, QUITTING ALL THAT STUFF LIKE THAT...
BUT WHEN ERICA WAS THE ONE SMOKING THEM, I DIDN'T MIND
I HATE CIGARETTES...
TIME'S UP WHEN THIS CIGARETTE TURNS TO ASH


ERICA, HUH?
WATCH YOURSELF AROUND WORKING GIRLS
M... MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, OLD -TIMER!
Erika
IF YOU WANT TO LIVE TO SEE YOURSELF AROUND ERICA'S LIPS AGAIN...
DON'T CALL ME OLD-TIMER AGAIN
.....

THOSE PIECES OF SHIT!
HERE THEY COME!
ק ק ק ק "ח


GOT AN ELITE SNIPER WHO'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!
TIME TO MEET YOUR MAKER!
HEHE!


THE WINDOWS ON HIS CAR ARE ALL BULLET-PROOF...
HERE'S THE PLAN, OL...OLD BUDDY: WE WAIT UNTIL DEL TORO GETS OUT OF THE CAR...

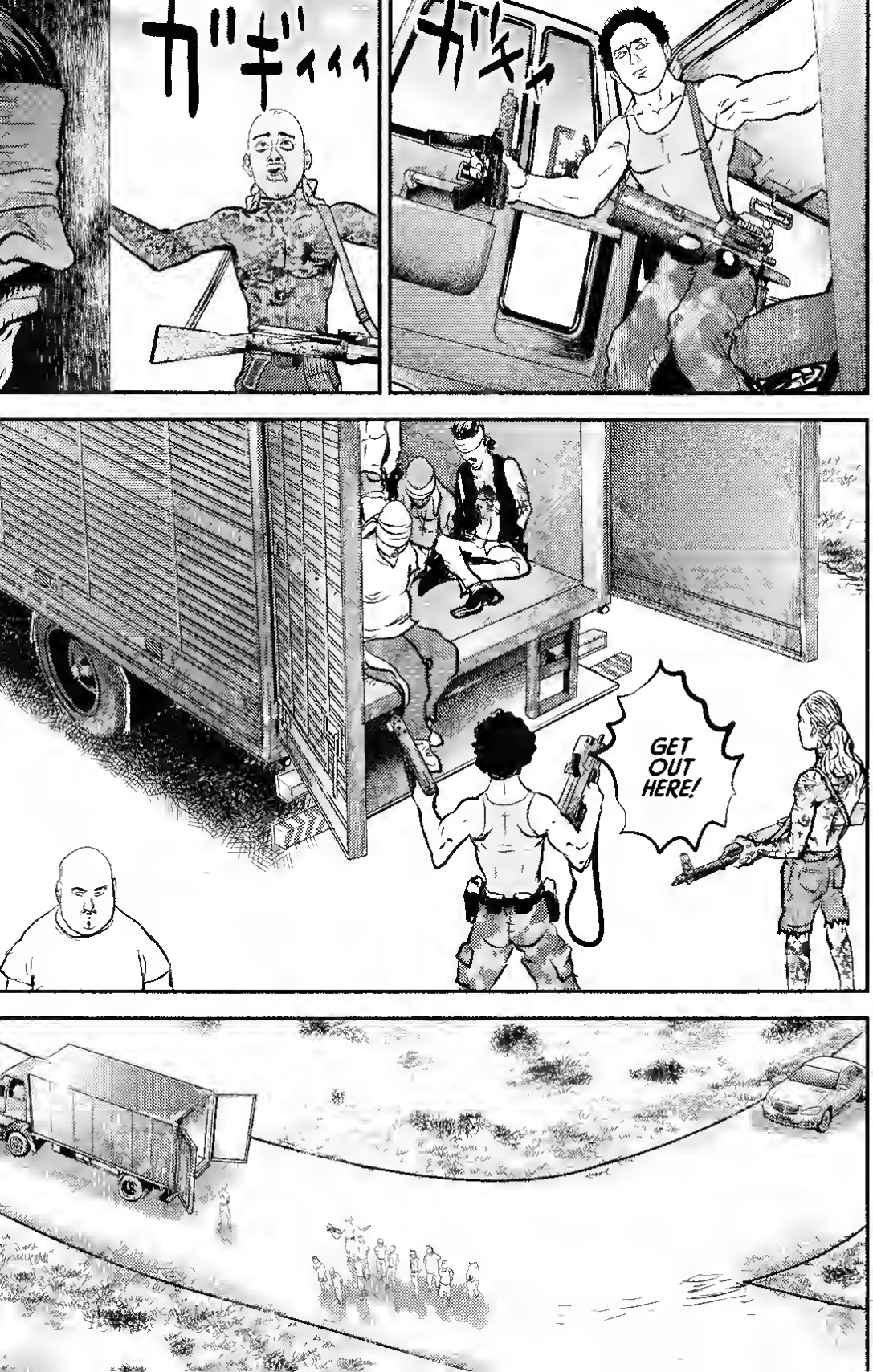
.....

HM?
ONE SHOT IS ALL WE HAVE...
IF YOU SHOOT TOO SOON, HE'LL GET AWAY!
WAIT UNTIL WE'RE DONE TO DO THAT!
WHAT IF THEY SAW THE SMOKE?!
IDIOT!

WHY THE FUCK DID YOU THROW THAT AWAY, ASSHOLE?!

UNLESS I'M SMOKING
I CAN'T MAKE MY SHOTS...
WHAT DOES SMOKING HAVE TO DO WITH IT?!
WHADDYA MEAN? THAT'S JUST IN YOUR HEAD, RIGHT?
NO SNIPE (ノー スナイプ)
NO SMOKE (ノー スモーク)

COME ON, ESSE! YOU'RE AN ELITE, RIGHT? AN ELITE SNIPER, RIGHT?!
I'M BEGGING YOU, DON'T GO!
IF WE DON'T KILL HIM, OUR GANG IS DONE FOR!
THEN GO BUY ME SOME CIGARETTES!
HOW AM I GONNA DO THAT OUT HERE?!


ガギィィィ
ガチャ
GET OUT HERE!

IS HE NOT COMING OUT?
STILL IN THE CAR?!
WHERE'S THAT FUCKER DEL TORO?!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
WAIT A MINUTE...
EVEN THE BOSS IS THERE!
TH... THOSE ARE ALL OUR GUYS!

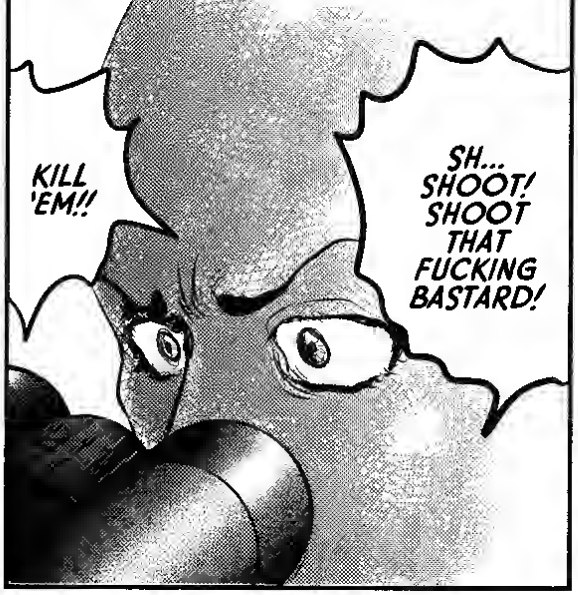
WHAT A MESS...
.....
THEY'VE GOT EVERYONE BUT ME!
SHIT...
THIS AIN'T LOOKING GOOD!
IF THEY KILL EVERYONE, THEN IT WON'T MATTER ANYWAY!
WHATEVER, JUST SHOOT!
SH... SHOOT THAT BALD GUY!
DEL TORO WILL GET AWAY

O...
YEAH, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO JUMPED THE GUN!
HUH? WHADDYA MEAN? YOU STARTED SHOOTING, SO WE DID, TOO!
WE WERE GONNA CUT THEIR HEADS OFF!
WHOA, WHOA, WHY'D YOU SHOOT?
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU ABOUT CALLING ME THAT
OLD -TIMER!!
QUIET DOWN! THERE'S STILL ONE LEFT
THEY... THEY'RE DEAD! IT'S ALL OVER!!

STEP BACK! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS ONE!
HUH?
HOLD ON, WILL YA?
LET ME HAVE ONE LAST SMOKE BEFORE I DIE!
I SMELL CIGARETTE SMOKE!

LET ME HAVE ONE!
DON'T LIE, I CAN SMELL IT! SOMEONE'S SMOKING AROUND HERE!
GIVE IT UP ALREADY, BUDDY
CIGARETTES? NO ONE'S SMOKING AROUND HERE
CAMEL
CIGARETTES ARE BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH!
YOU SHOULD QUIT THAT ANYWAY...
NO CIGARETTES AROUND HERE, BUT WE'VE GOT SOME MARIJUANA IF YOU WANT IT!
THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO SMOKE THESE DAYS ARE RETARDS
CHRIST, MAN...
IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD
I QUIT 5 YEARS AGO. I READ "EASY WAY TO STOP SMOKING". YOU SHOULD READ IT, TOO...

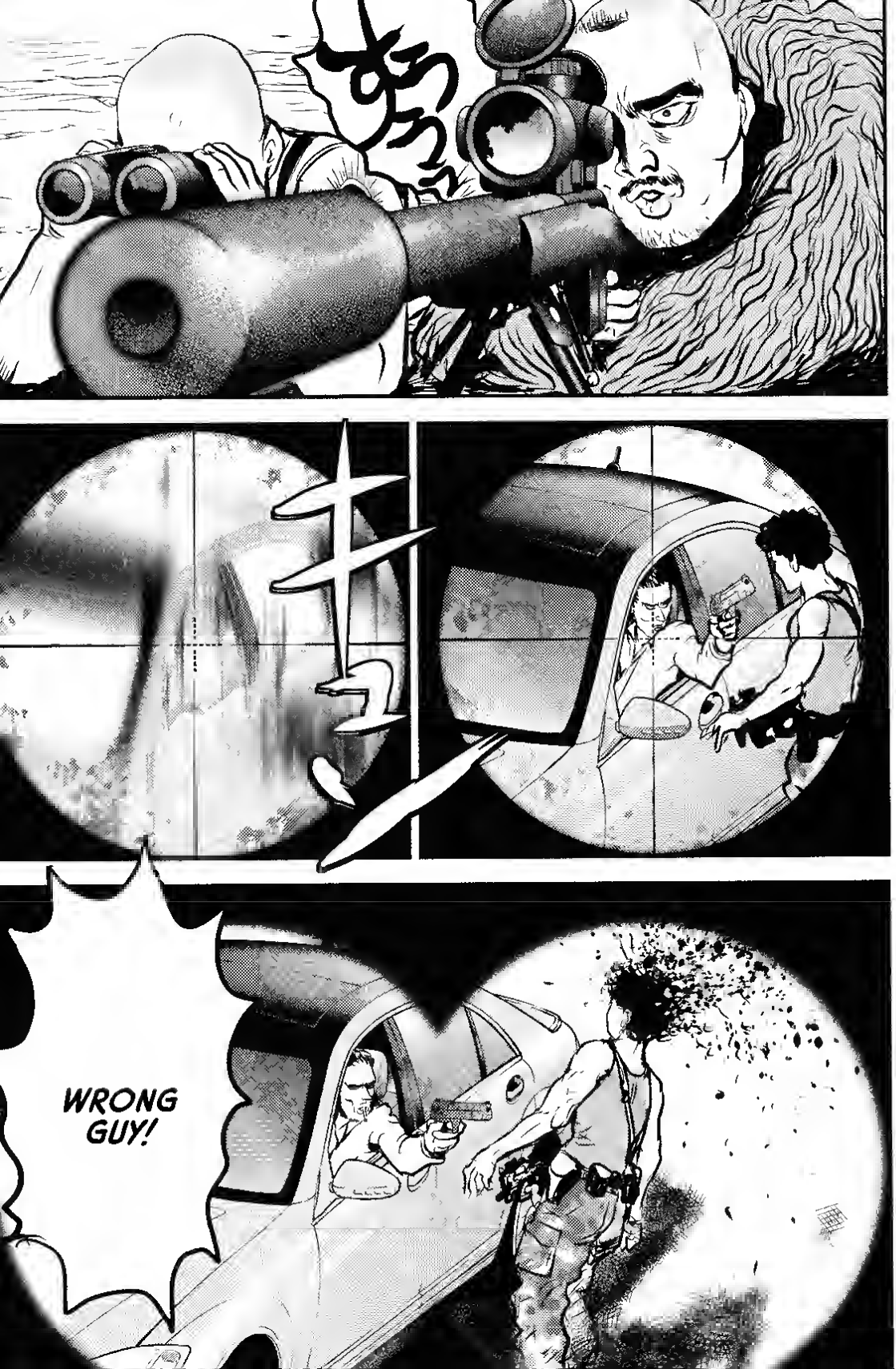
!
HEY!
WHO YOU CALLING A RETARD?
WHO DID YOU SAY...
WAS A RETARD?
YOU SEE... I... UHH...
SEÑOR DEL TORO...


KILL 'EM!!
SH... SHOOT! SHOOT THAT FUCKING BASTARD!

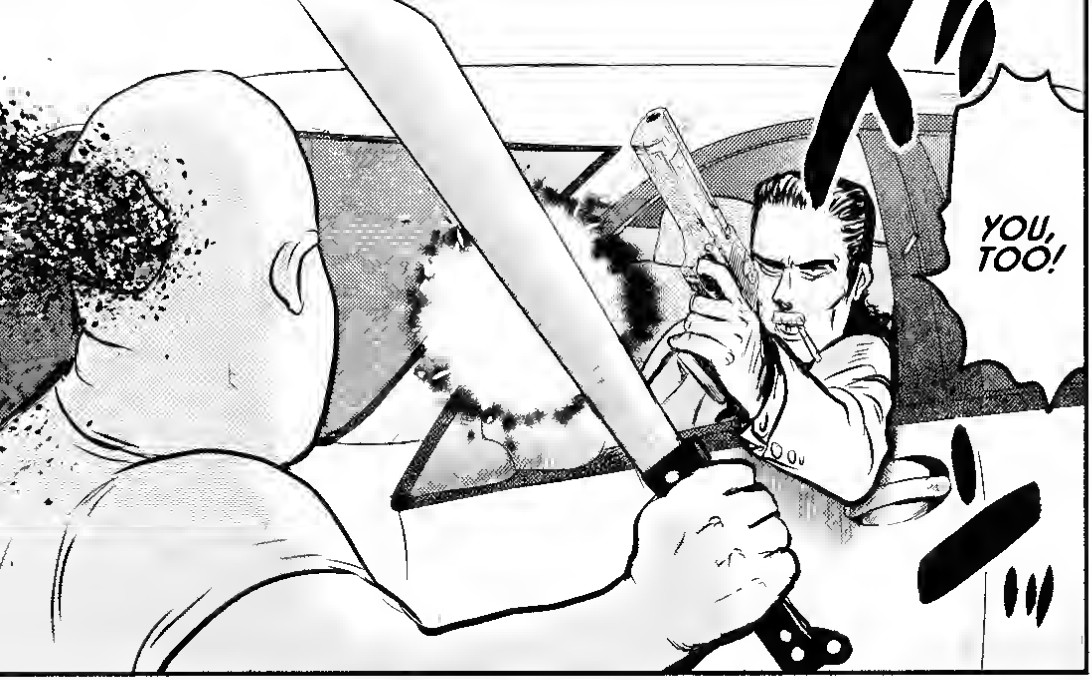
IT'S DEL TORO!

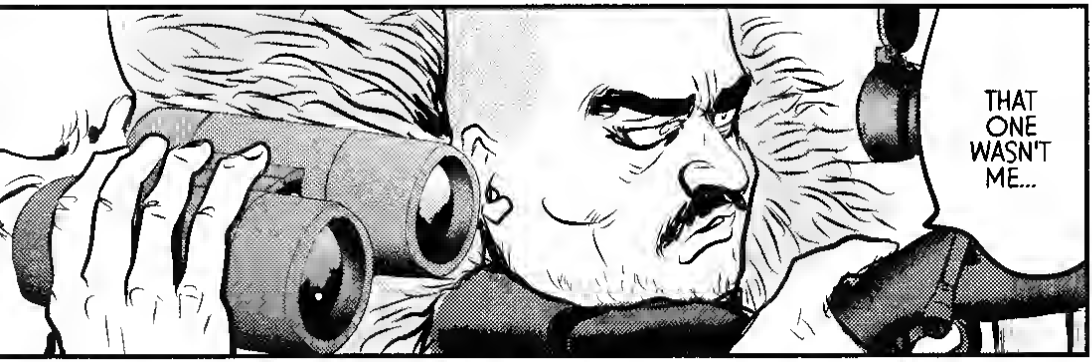
ME, THE SMOKER, OR YOU, THE NON-SMOKER?
WELL? WHO'S THE RETARD NOW? HUH?!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SENOR DEL TORO...

HUH?! WHICH ONE OF US?!
WHICH OF US DO YOU THINK WILL LIVE LONGER?


WRONG GUY!

YOU KILLED HIM, MR. DEL TORO?
OVER SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!
YOU KILLED MY LITTLE BROTHER...
JUST BECAUSE HE CALLED SMOK-ERS RETARDS?
THEN WHY ARE HIS BRAINS BLOWN OUT, YOU LYING SACK OF SHIT?!
I DIDN'T KILL HIM...


YOU, TOO!


THAT ONE WASN'T ME...

MARIJUANA'S WAY BETTER THAN CIGAR-ETTES
CHILL OUT, SEÑOR DEL TORO...

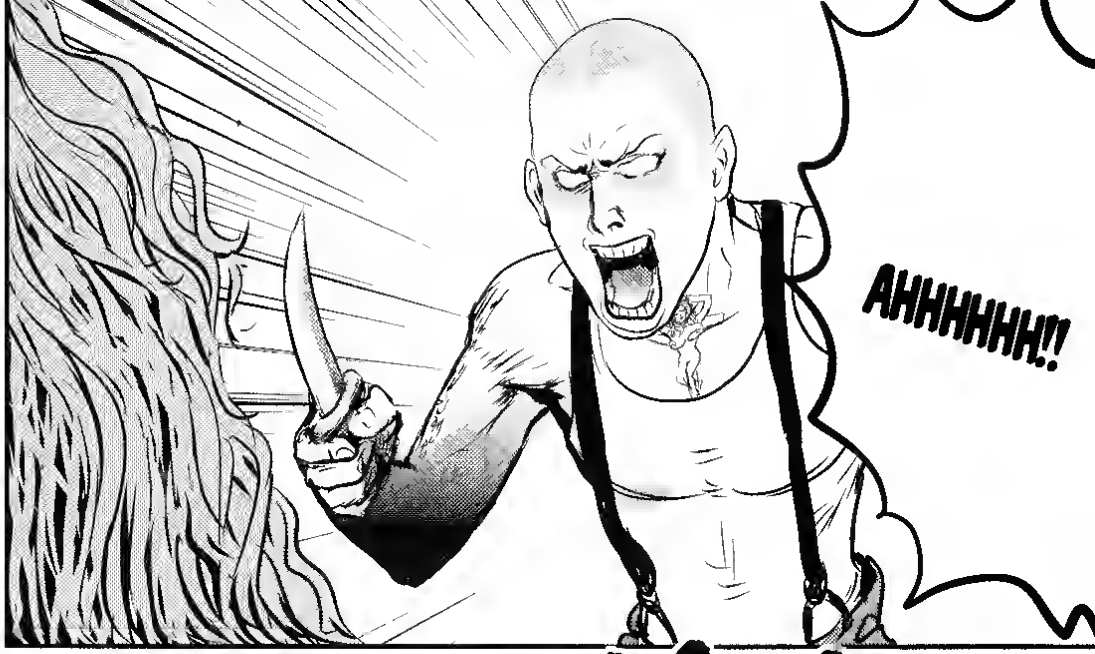
キラ
THAT ONE WAS ME
DEL TORO IS GONNA GET AWAY!
DAMN, HE'S NOTICED!
うおおおおおお

スピン！
A CIGARETTE...
オオオ
A CIGARETTE...
ドカ

UWAAHH!

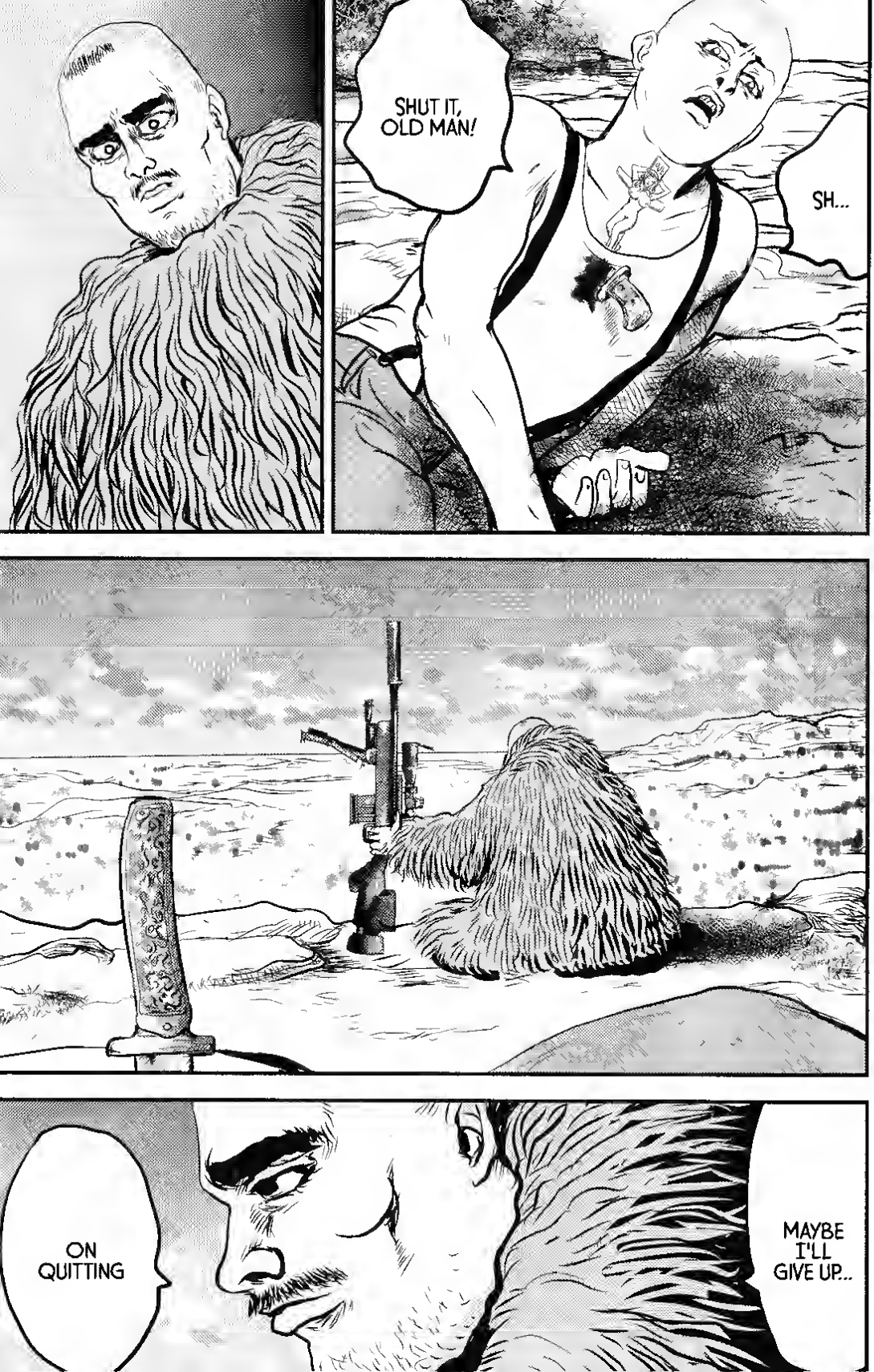
ISN'T IT?
THIS IS IT FOR ME...

THEY'RE ALL DEAD...
WHICH MEANS I WON'T BE GETTING MY MONEY

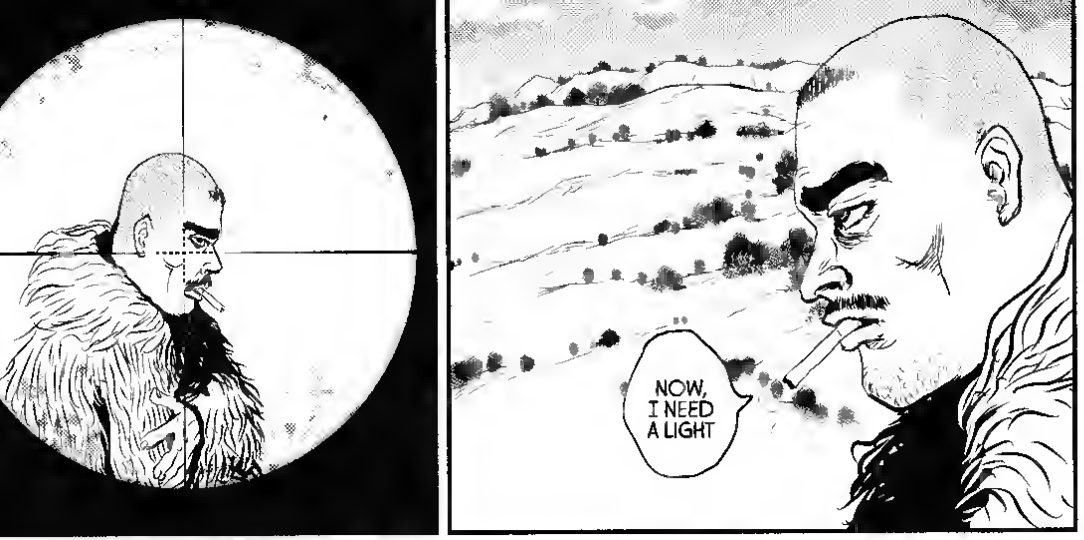

AHHHHHH!!

THEY'RE ALL DEAD!!
WAIT! CALM DOWN!

MY SON WAS LIKE YOU, HE GOT INVOLVED WITH A DRUG CARTEL, AND GOT HIMSELF KILLED
THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE FOR YOU. WASH YOUR HANDS OF ALL THIS!


SHUT IT, OLD MAN!
SH...
ON QUITTING
MAYBE I'LL GIVE UP...

ふ
HAA...
HAA...
カ"


NOW, I NEED A LIGHT

LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO QUIT SMOKING, OLD-TIMER...

DIE!

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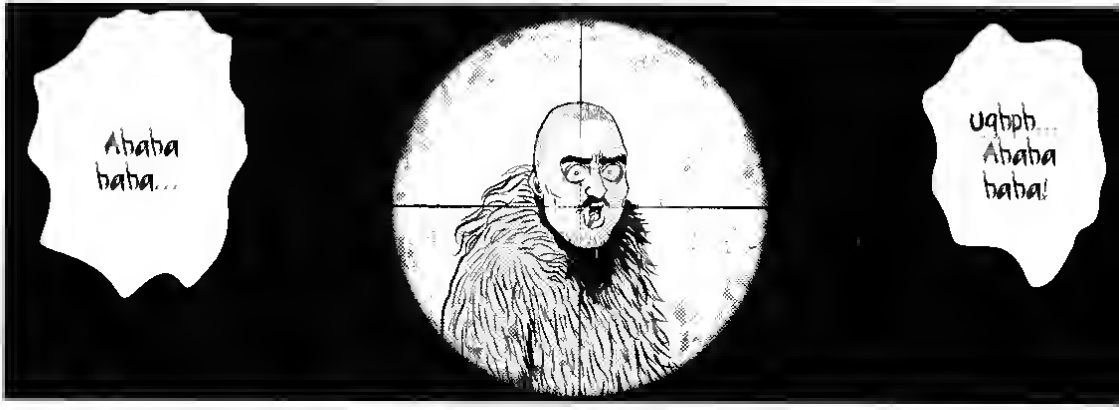
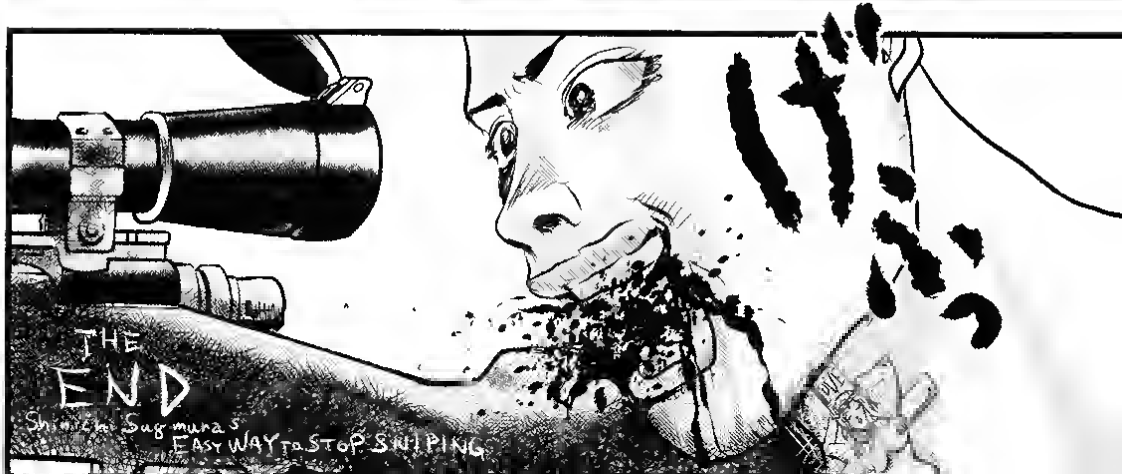

Ahaha
haha...
uqhph...
Ahaha
haha!


ばふっ
THE
END
Shinichi Sagmura's
EASY WAY to STOP SNIPING

OH! GREAT PRESENTS

TIME MACHINE RECORD

Mmm...

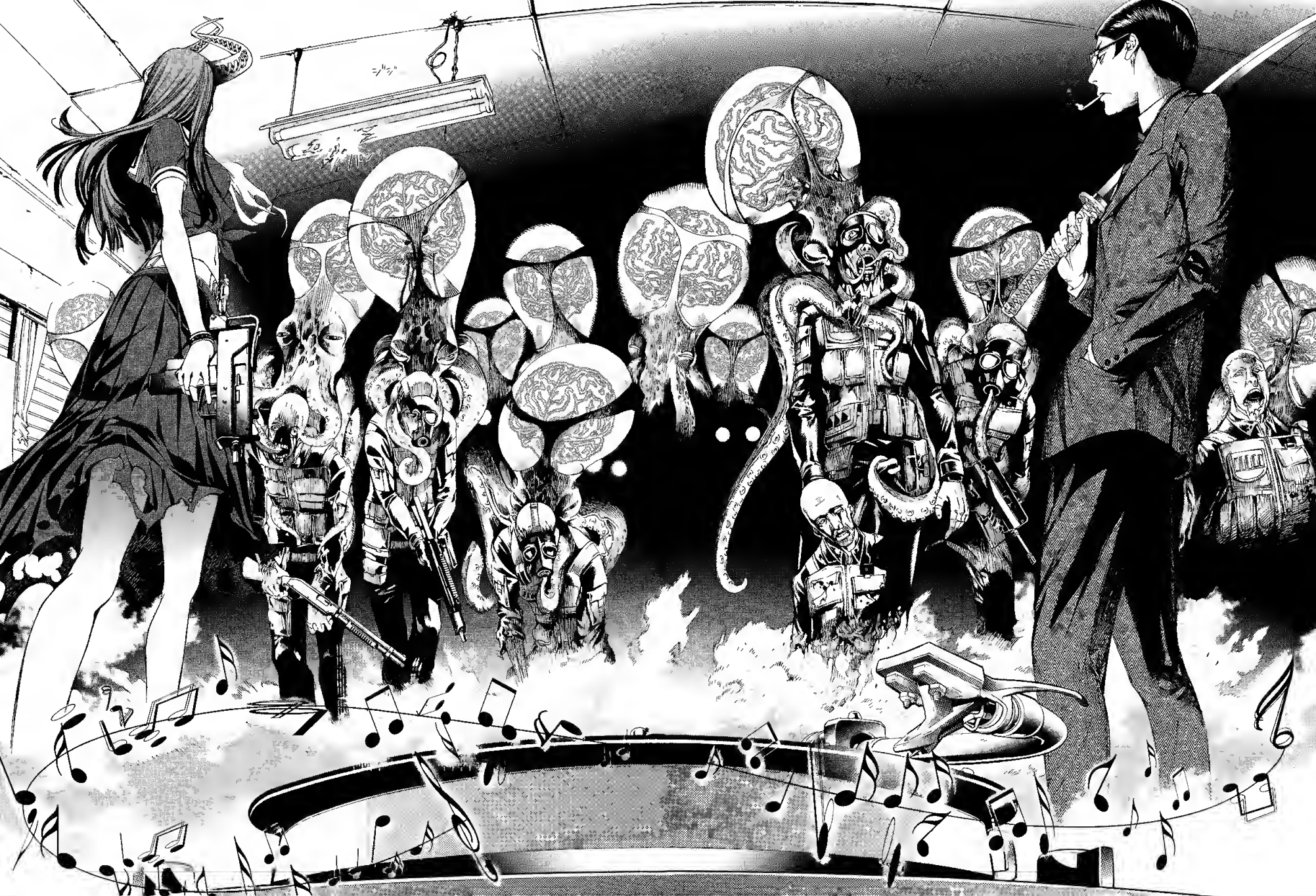
Right there...

大暮維人

CIGARETTE ANTHOLOGY

♪……kind of
kind of
kind of
Wait...
THAT RECORD...
IT ALWAYS SKIPS AT THE SAME PLACE, DOESN'T IT?
?
I need something to cool off.
Perfect.
I HAVE BUD.
PERFECT.♪

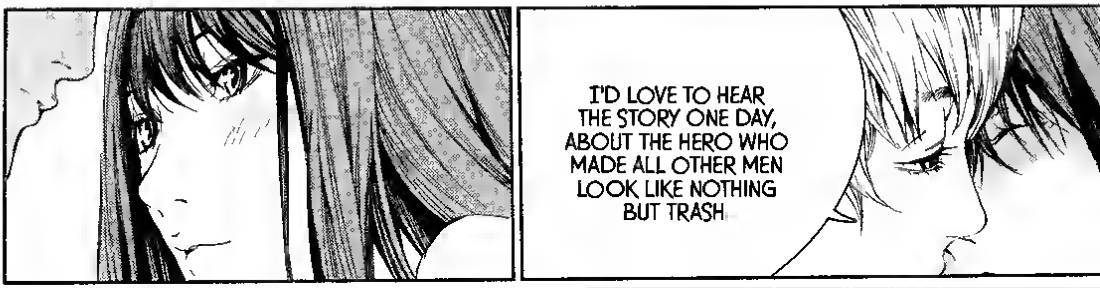
This...
This isn't your "first time", is it?
HEY, AS LONG AS I'M GETTING PAID, IT'S WHATEVER YOU SAY.
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT INVOLVES BEER. ♡
.....
"Marlboro". This is where I made him mine.
Janis Joplin's "Pearl", Side B, 4th Track.
"Trust Me", 29 minutes 44 seconds in.



CAMEL,
GOLDEN BAT,
SEVEN STARS,
THEY'LL ALL DELIVER YOUR MESSAGE TO GOD FOR YOU.
SO MARRY ME, MARLBORO.
KID...
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO SETTLE WITH THIS AS OUR KISS.

Within that 29 minutes and 44 seconds,
this girl forever spins round, and round, and round...
ONCE THE MARLBORO MAN'S GOT HER, IT'S OVER FOR A WOMAN.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT "MARLBORO" STANDS FOR?
Man always remember love because of romance only···
THOUGH THIS IS THE 3RD TIME I'VE HAD THIS CONVERSATION...

Men only use romance in order to find true love



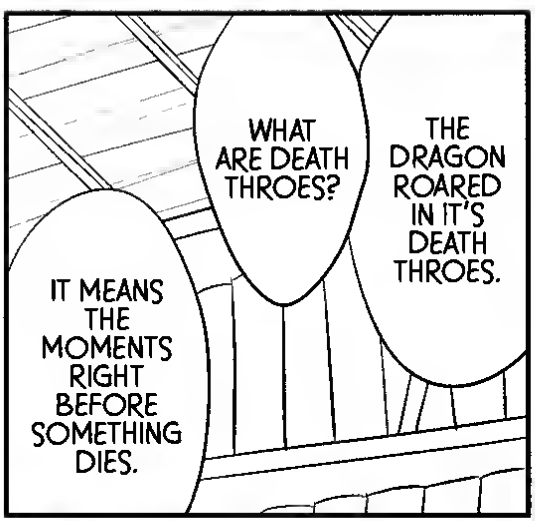
HE WON SOME SORT OF AWARD FOR A NOVEL WHEN HE WAS A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL AND MADE IT INTO TO A GOOD UNIVERSITY, BUT DROPPED OUT AND NOW PASSES MOST OF HIS TIME AT HIS DESK, RARELY GOING OUTSIDE.
HE LIVES WITH MY GRANDMA, IN HER ATTIC,
My uncle as a kid.
MY UNCLE, SHOUICHI-KUN, MY MOM'S LITTLE BROTHER, IS 23 THIS YEAR,
My mom, when she was younger.
MUMBLING ABOUT THINGS I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND LIKE THE GOVERNMENT AND THE COUNTRY,
ガリ ガリ
HE SPENDS HIS DAYS CHEWING ON SWEET GOLDEN CANDY MY GRANDMA BUYS HIM EVERY DAY,
PUFFING AWAY AT CIGARETTES HE STOLE FROM GRANDPA, (WHO HAS GIVEN UP AND STARTED BUYING EXTRA JUST FOR HIM)
HEY THERE, MIKA-CHAN.

Golden Candy, Starry Smoke
金色の飴 星の煙
Fumi Fumiko
ふみふみこ
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT WHILE DOING STUFF LIKE THIS TO ME, A 6TH GRADER?
MIKA-CHAN, YOU'RE MY ONLY ALLY.

HE WOULD SAY THAT, AND HE WOULD TAKE HIS CIGARETTE, WHICH HAD GOTTEN SO SMALL IT BARELY WENT PAST HIS FINGERS,
IT'S STILL A LITTLE TOO SOON FOR YOU TO TRY THEM, I THINK.
AND AS SOON AS HE PUT IT OUT,
YOU HAVEN'T GROWN ANY HAIR YET, AFTER ALL.
HE WOULD BEGIN ATTENDING TO ME AGAIN.

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
JUST THEN,
AT THE MOMENT WHEN THE DRAGON, WHO WAS AS BIG AS A BUILDING, WAS ABOUT TO GET ME, A HUGE FLAME ENVELOPED HIM,

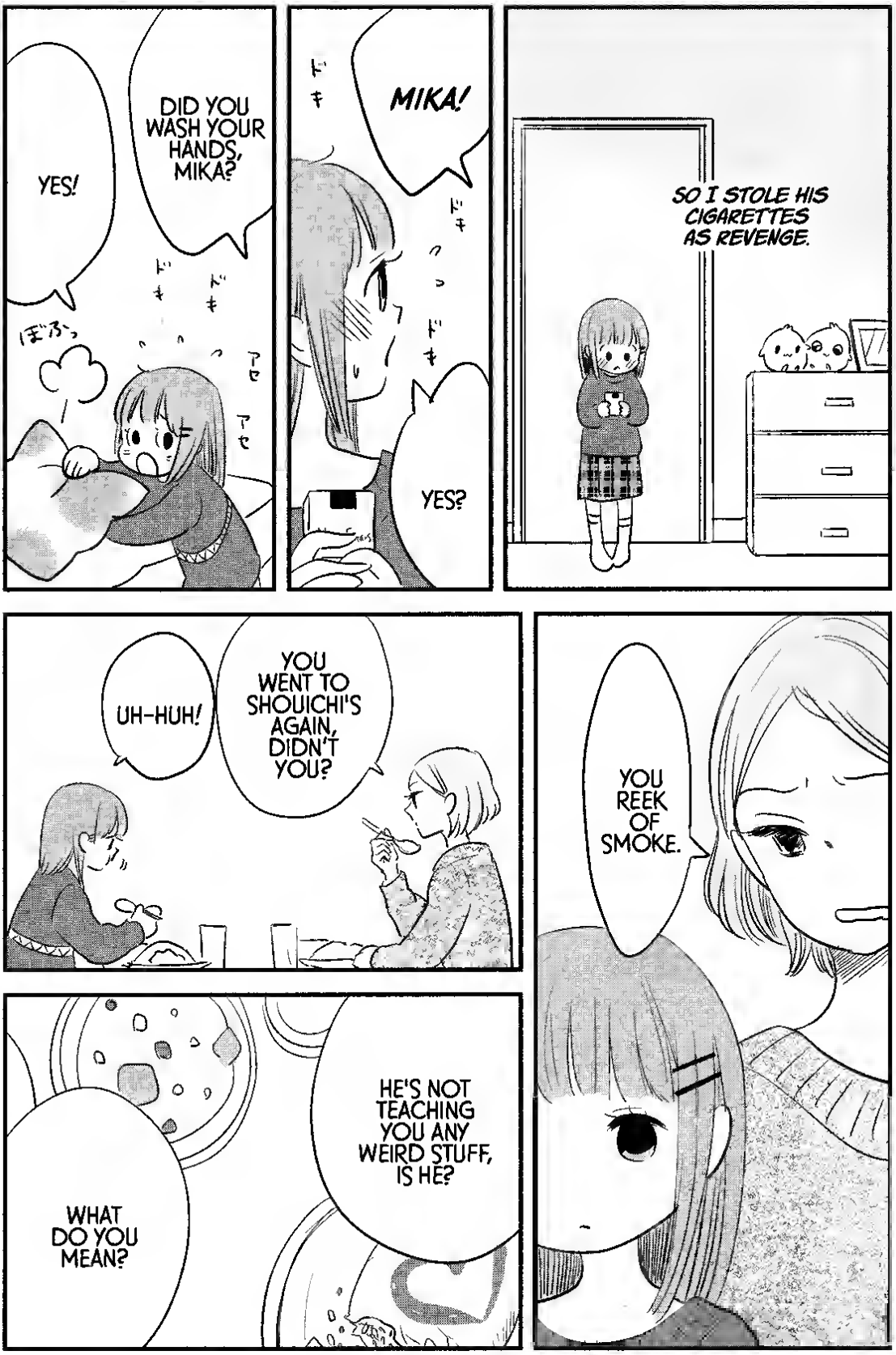
AND THEN?

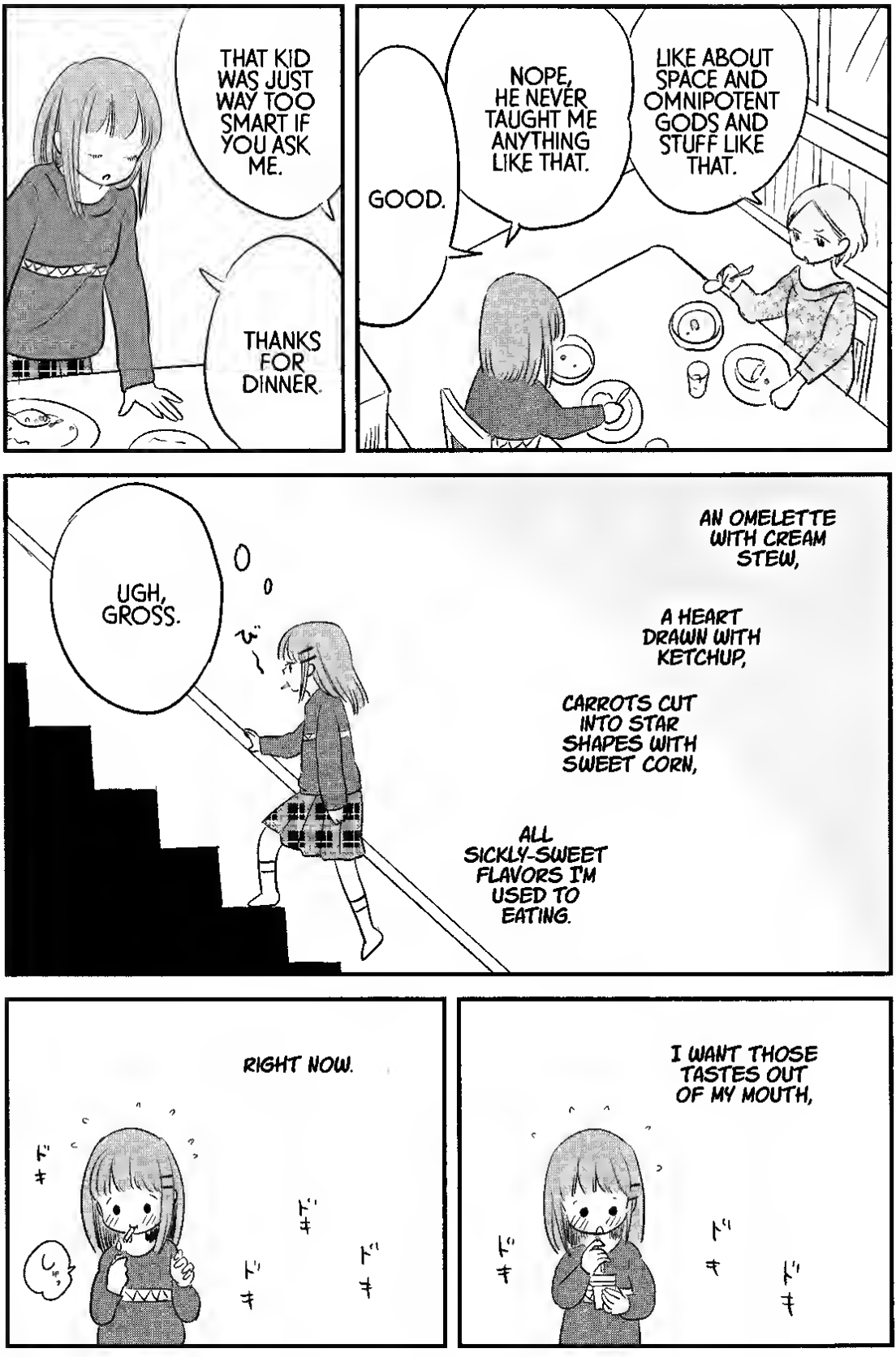

WHAT ARE DEATH THROES?
THE DRAGON ROARED IN IT'S DEATH THROES.
IT MEANS THE MOMENTS RIGHT BEFORE SOMETHING DIES.

RRRAAAAAAAAA

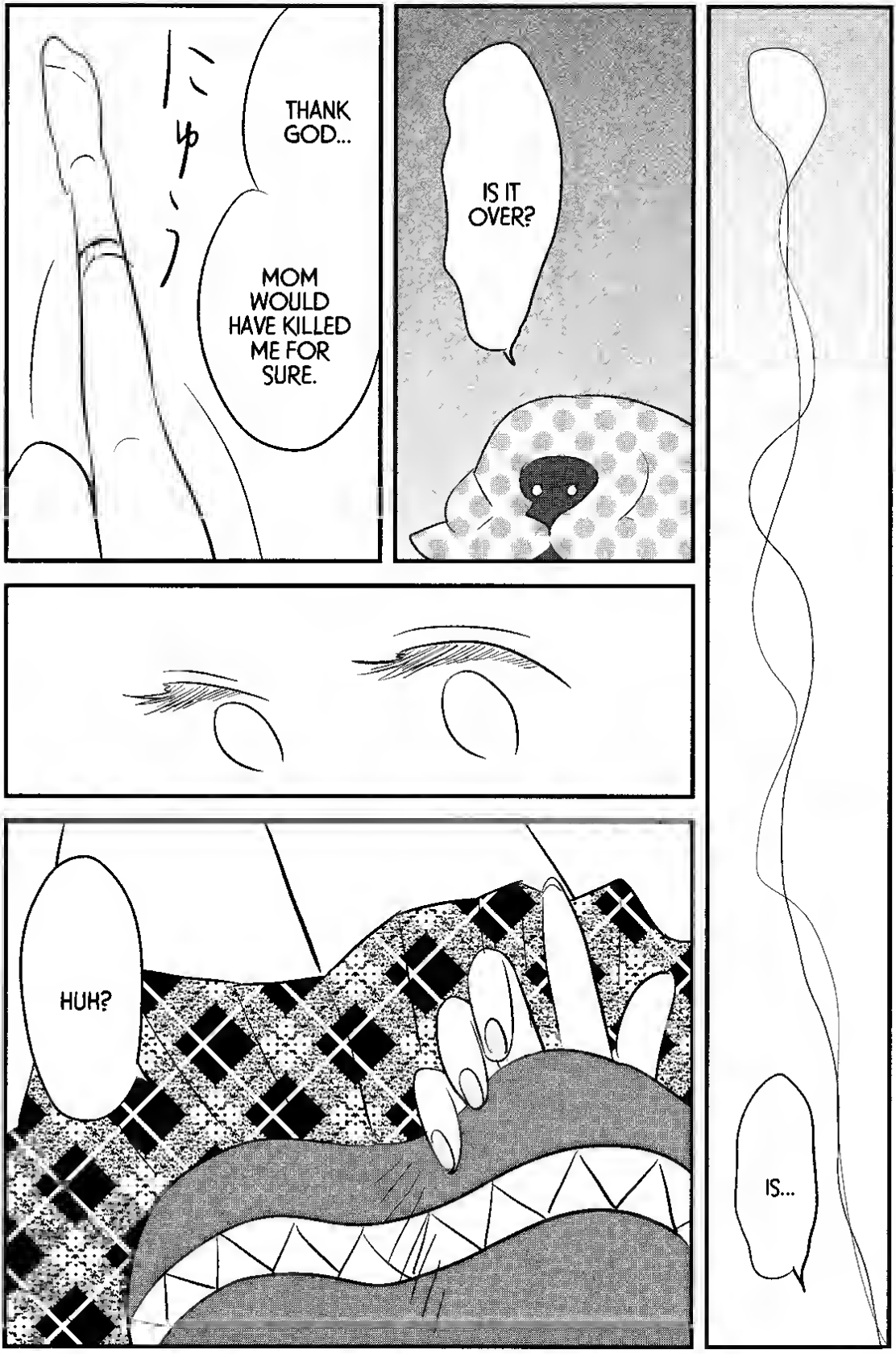
SHOCKED, I TURNED AROUND, AND STANDING THERE...

WHY?
I SWALLOWED MY BREATH, AND THEN...
STOP!
WAS AN UNBELIEVABLY BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.
Mngh.
ONLY ME.
SHOUICHI-KUN'S LIES AND INSENSITIVITY PUT ME IN A REALLY BAD MOOD
TO ENJOY SUCH A FAKE FAIRYTALE...
THAT WAS ENOUGH.
I'M SHOUICHI-KUN'S ONLY ALLY, RIGHT?

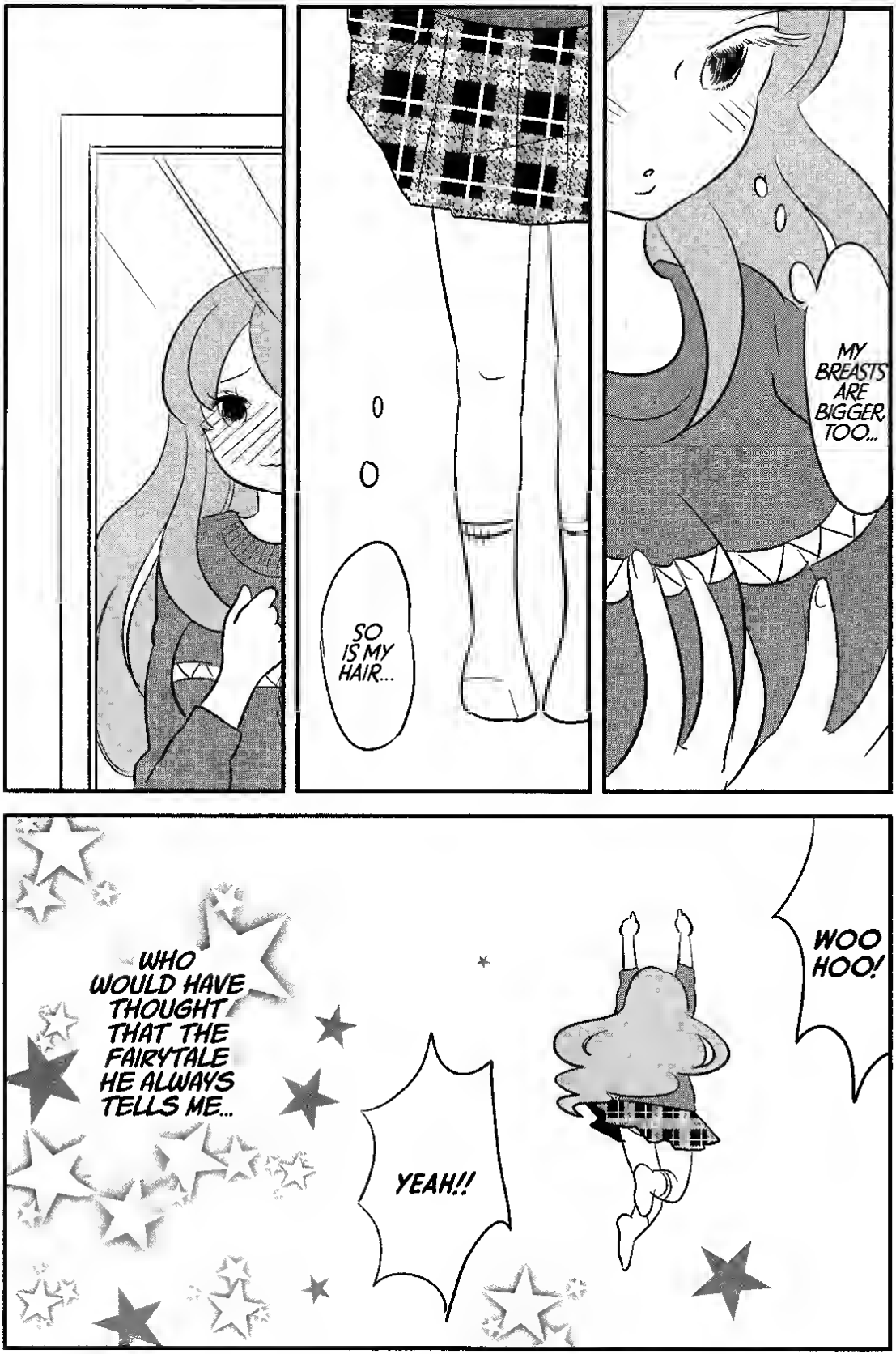

DID YOU WASH YOUR HANDS, MIKA?
YES!
ドキ
ドキ
ぼふっ
アセ
アセ
MIKA!
ドキ
ドキッ
YES?
SO I STOLE HIS CIGARETTES AS REVENGE.
YOU WENT TO SHOUICHI'S AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?
UH-HUH!
YOU REEK OF SMOKE.
HE'S NOT TEACHING YOU ANY WEIRD STUFF, IS HE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

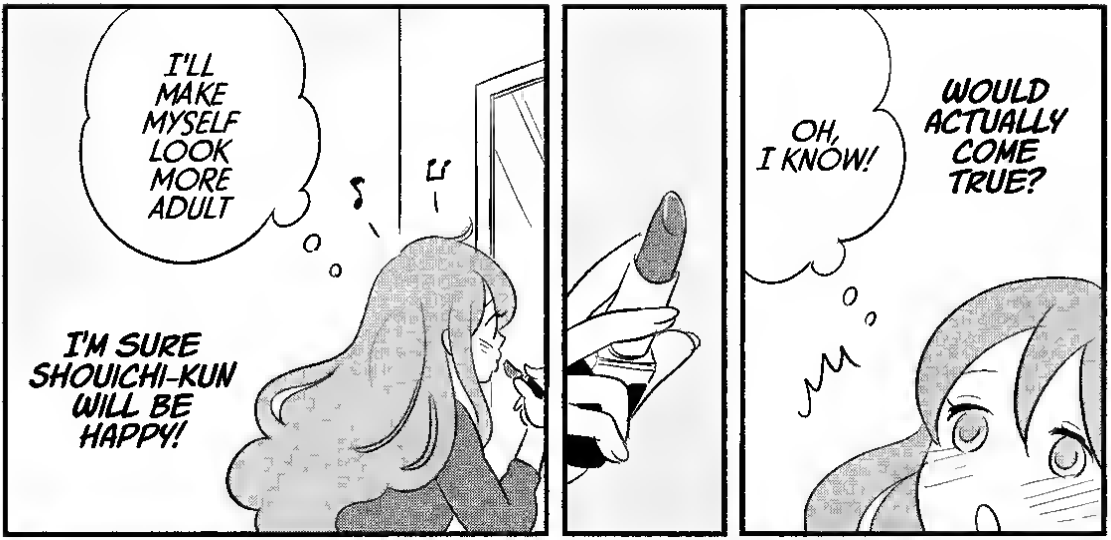

THAT KID WAS JUST WAY TOO SMART IF YOU ASK ME.
THANKS FOR DINNER.
GOOD.
NOPE, HE NEVER TAUGHT ME ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
LIKE ABOUT SPACE AND OMNIPOTENT GODS AND STUFF LIKE THAT.
UGH, GROSS.
びー
AN OMELETTE WITH CREAM STEW,
A HEART DRAWN WITH KETCHUP,
CARROTS CUT INTO STAR SHAPES WITH SWEET CORN,
ALL SICKLY-SWEET FLAVORS I'M USED TO EATING.
I WANT THOSE TASTES OUT OF MY MOUTH,
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
RIGHT NOW.
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
しゃっ

MGH.
IT'S KINDA SWEET.
HUH,
THE FLAVOR IS WAY DIFFERENT THAN I EXPECTED
もく
もく
もく
AAAH!
SMOKE!
A FIRE?
NO, WAIT, BEFORE THAT...
THERE'S SMOKE EVERYWHERE!
MOM'S GOING TO BE REALLY ANGRY!
IF SHE FINDS OUT ABOUT THE CIGARETTES,


にゅ〜う
THANK GOD...
MOM WOULD HAVE KILLED ME FOR SURE.
IS IT OVER?
HUH?
IS...

I'M BIGGER...
え
HUH?
WHAT?!

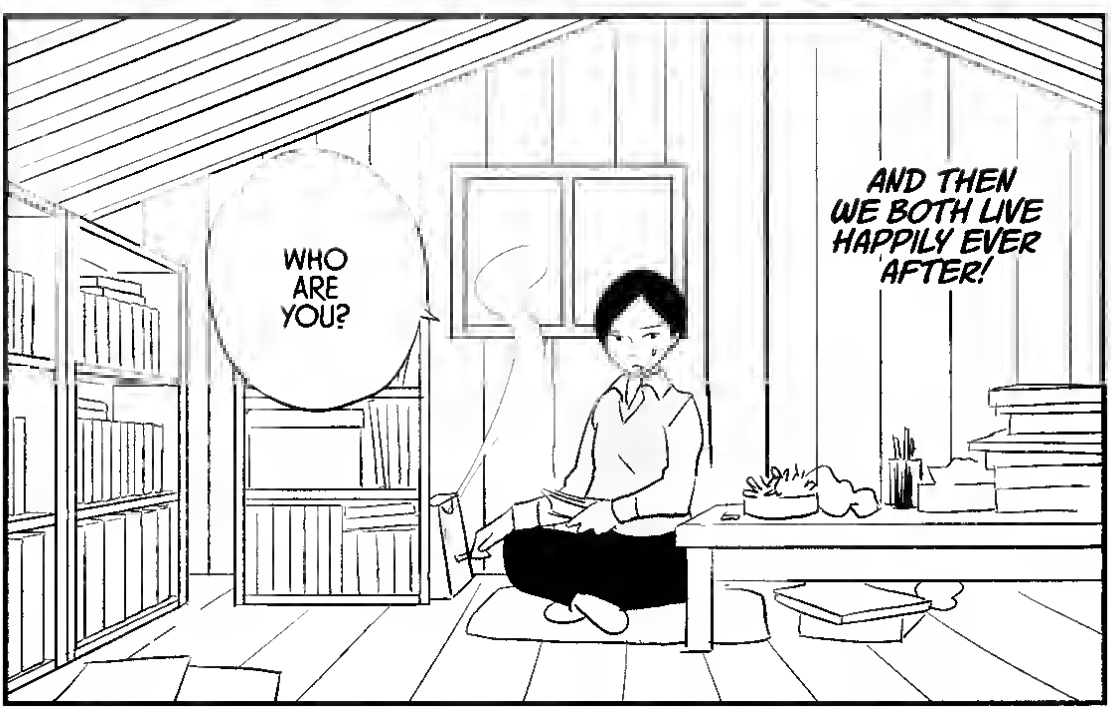

MY BREASTS ARE BIGGER, TOO...
SO IS MY HAIR...
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE FAIRYTALE HE ALWAYS TELLS ME...
YEAH!!
WOO HOO!



AFTER A LOT OF TWISTS AND TURNS, I LEARN HOW TO USE MAGIC AND WHEN SHOUICHI-KUN IS IN A DESPERATE SITUATION, I USE MY FLAME MAGIC TO DEFEAT THE DRAGON, WHO ROARS IN IT'S DEATH THROES, AND THEN, AND THEN..

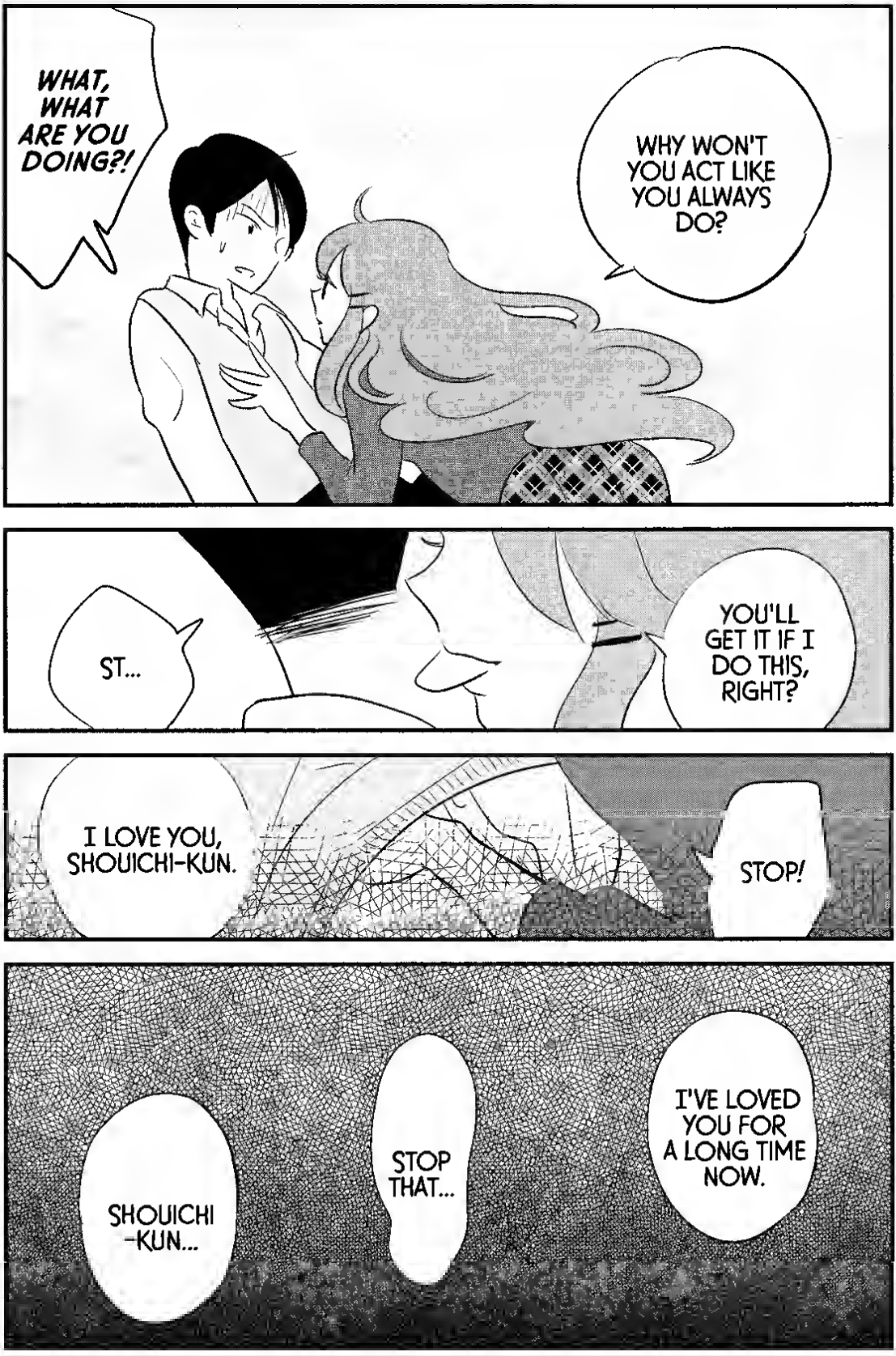
AFTER THAT, WITH BARELY ENOUGH TIME TO CATCH A BREATH, A MESSENGER FROM THE LAND OF MAGIC WILL APPEAR AND TELL US THAT A HUGE DRAGON IS ATTACKING THEIR COUNTRY AND THEY NEED OUR HELP. AFTER GATHERING OUR RESOLVE, WE HEAD OUT ON OUR JOURNEY...

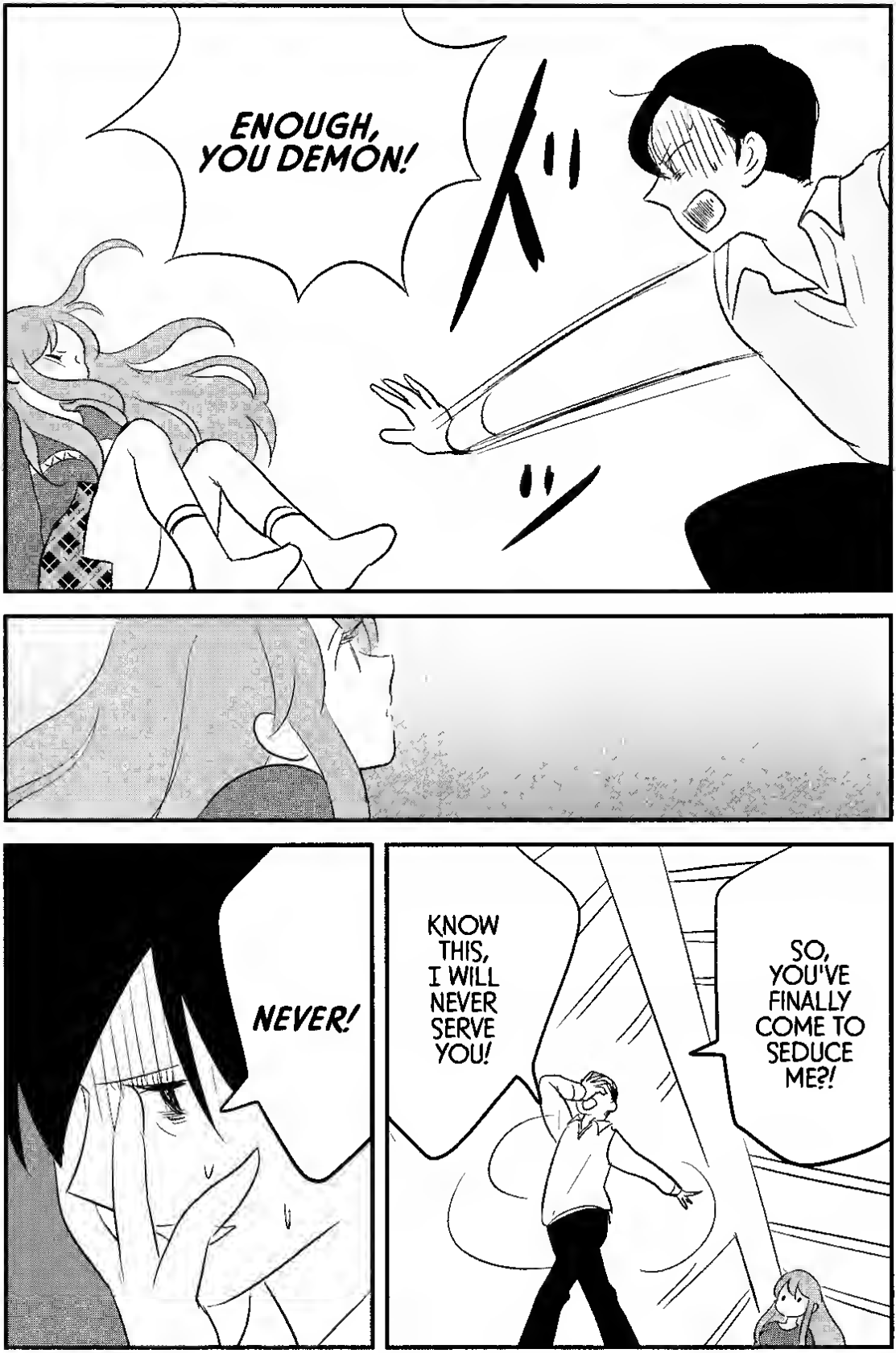
WITH ONE LOOK, HE'LL KNOW IT'S ME AND SAY, "YOU'VE FINALLY BECOME AN ADULT! I'VE WAITED FOR THIS MOMENT!" AND THEN, IN A FIT OF JOY, HE WILL TAKE MY HAND, GIVE ME OUR PROMISED KISS, AND LOVE ME FIERCELY.

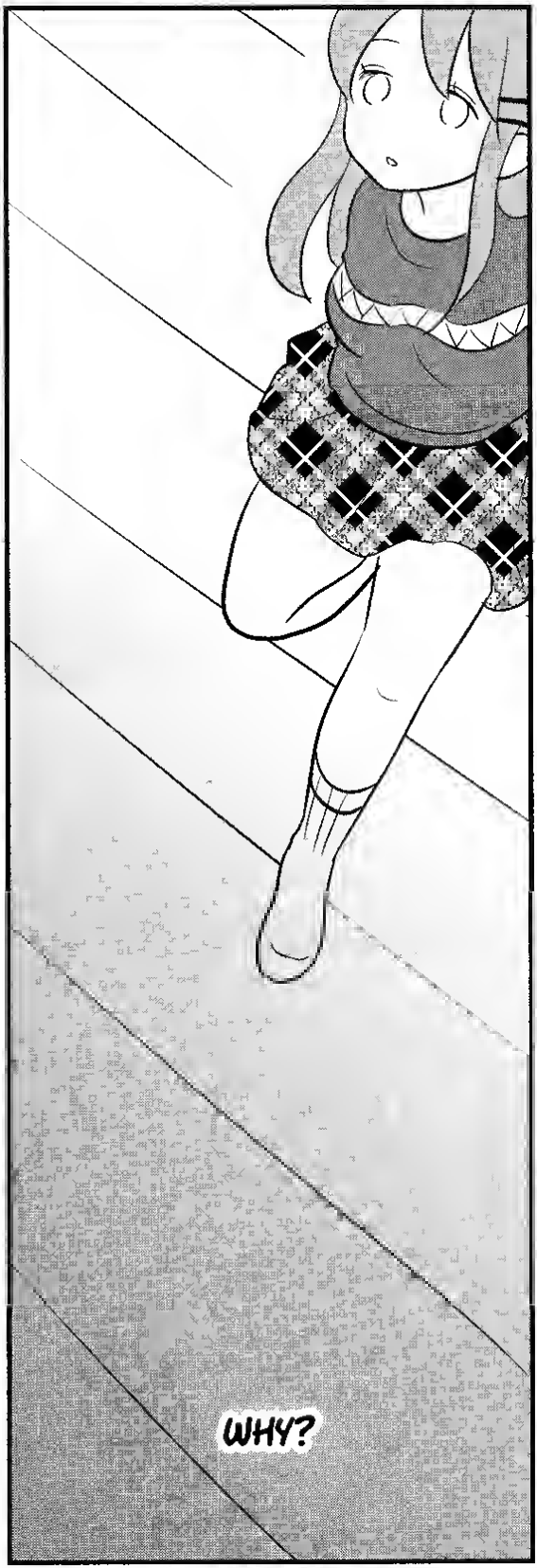


IT'S...
IT'S ME, I SWEAR!
CUT IT OUT OR I'LL CONSIDER THIS TRES-PASSING.
IT'S TRUE THAT YOU DO LOOK LIKE MIKA, BUT SHE'S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO BEING THAT OLD,
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT MIKA,
は？
I TURNED INTO AN ADULT!
IT'S ME, MIKA!
MY BODY CHANGED INTO THIS AFTER SMOKING YOUR CIGAR-ETTES!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M CALLING THE POLICE.
YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME, WILL YOU?
BUT THERE'S NO WAY SUCH AN UNREALISTIC THING COULD HAPPEN.

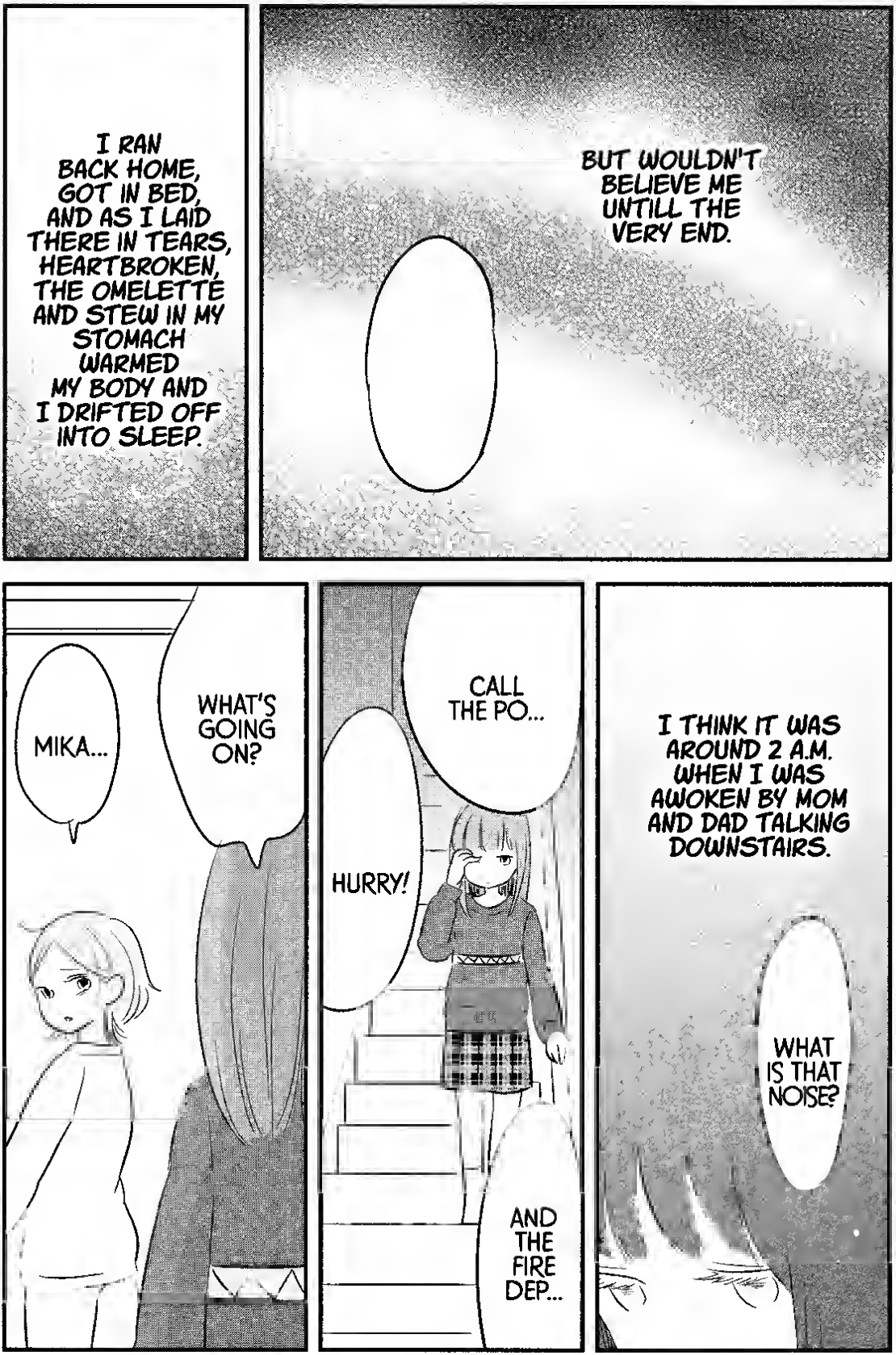

WHAT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
WHY WON'T YOU ACT LIKE YOU ALWAYS DO?
ST...
YOU'LL GET IT IF I DO THIS, RIGHT?
I LOVE YOU, SHOUICHI-KUN.
STOP!
SHOUICHI -KUN...
STOP THAT...
I'VE LOVED YOU FOR A LONG TIME NOW.

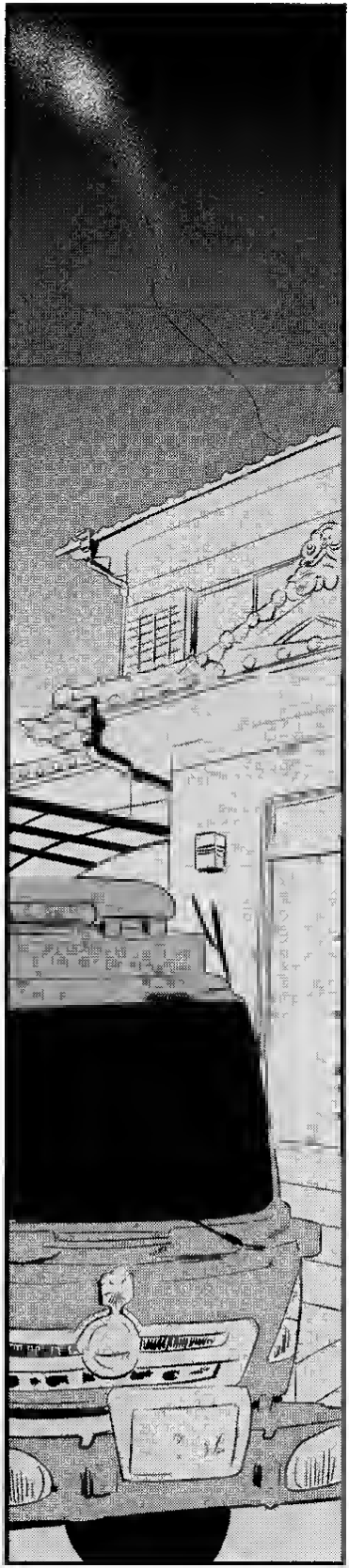

ENOUGH, YOU DEMON!
SO, YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO SEDUCE ME?!
KNOW THIS, I WILL NEVER SERVE YOU!
NEVER!


WHY?

HOW DISGUSTING!

THE BARRIER!
ふ ふ ふ ふ
I MUST STRENGTHEN THE SURROUND-INGS!
TO THINK YOU EVEN MANAGED TO INTRUDE ON THIS HOLY LAND...
THE BARRIER NEEDS TO BE STRON-GER!
SHOU-ICHI -KUN...
IT'S ME...
IT'S MIKA.
HE BELIEVES IN DEMONS,

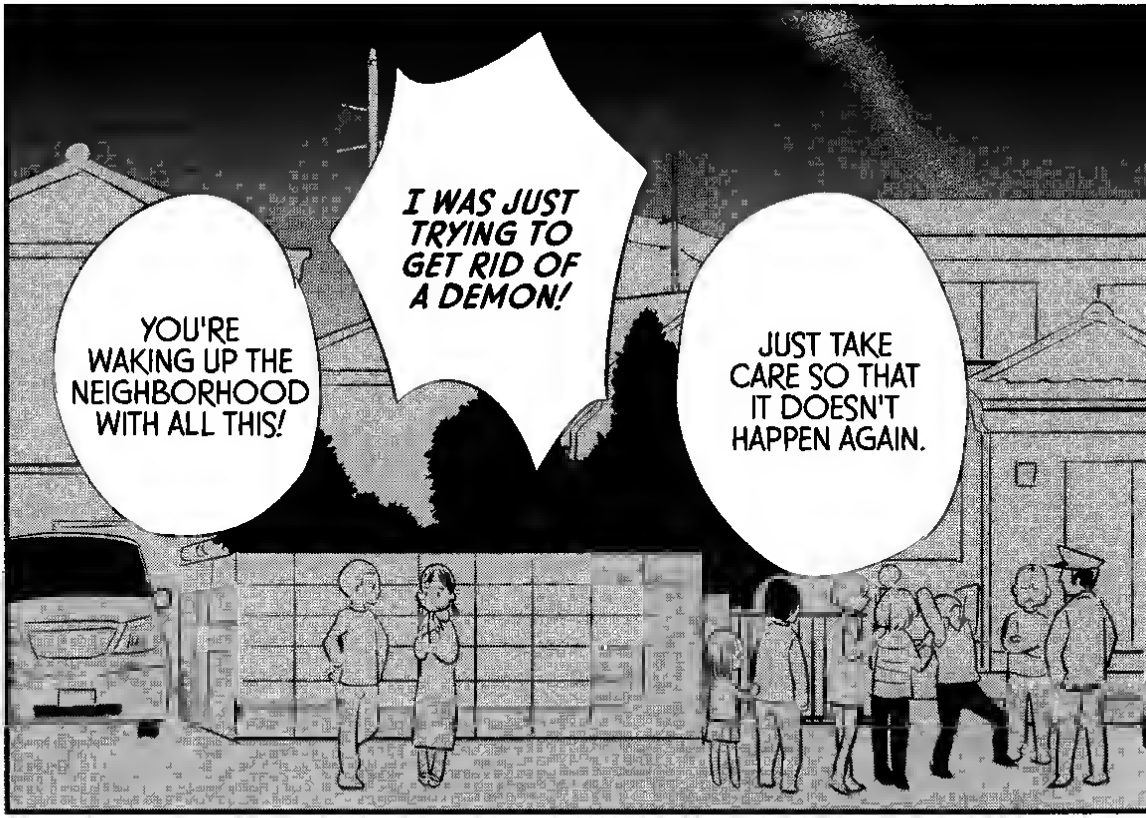

I RAN BACK HOME, GOT IN BED, AND AS I LAID THERE IN TEARS, HEARTBROKEN, THE OMELETTE AND STEW IN MY STOMACH WARMED MY BODY AND I DRIFTED OFF INTO SLEEP.
BUT WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME UNTILL THE VERY END.
I THINK IT WAS AROUND 2 A.M. WHEN I WAS AWOKEN BY MOM AND DAD TALKING DOWNSTAIRS.
WHAT IS THAT NOISE?
CALL THE PO...
HURRY!
AND THE FIRE DEP...
MIKA...
WHAT'S GOING ON?

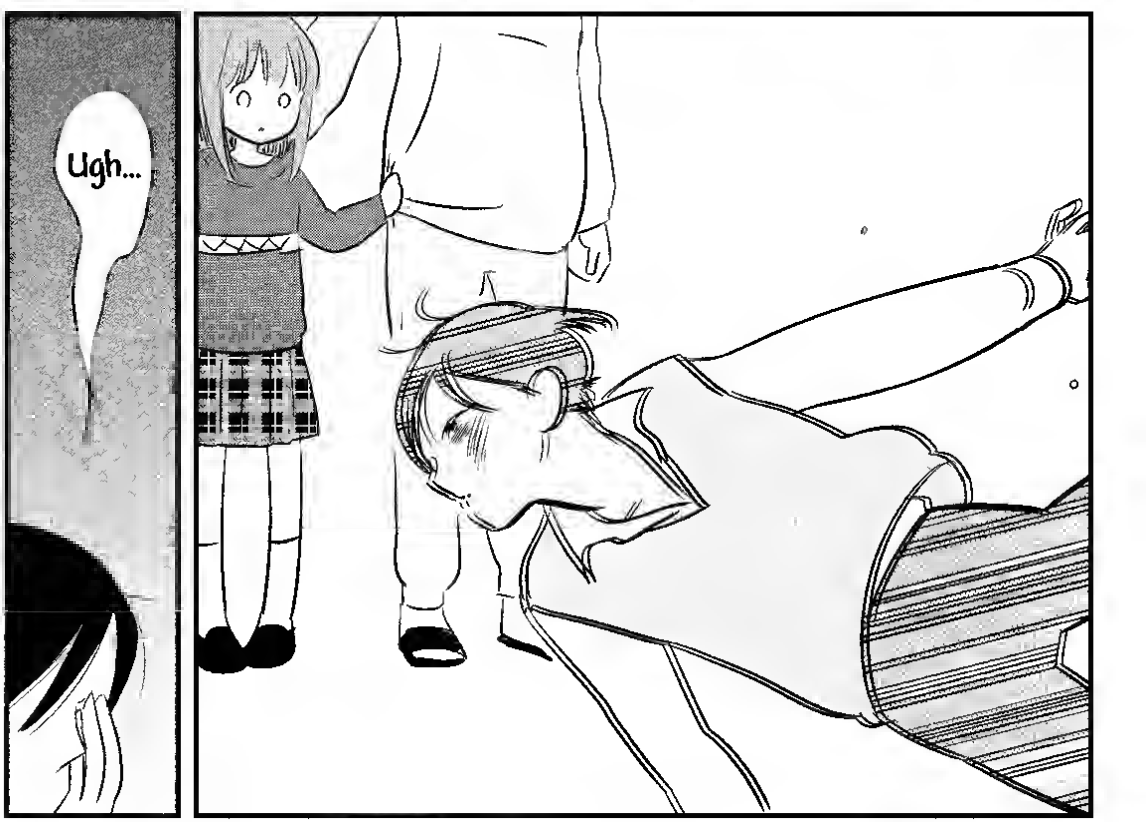


AH!
THERE'S BEEN SOME TROUBLE,
OVER AT GRAND-MA'S...

MY BODY IS BACK TO NORMAL.

OHHH, IT WAS SHOUICHI-KUN, WAS IT? HAHA.
IT WAS A DEMON!
THE FLAME FROM A CANDLE LIT THE CURTAINS ON FIRE.
YOU KNOW YOU DID IT, GODDAMNIT!
IT WASN'T ME!
A DEMON!
LUCKILY, IT WAS JUST A SMALL FIRE.
WE'RE SO, SO SORRY.

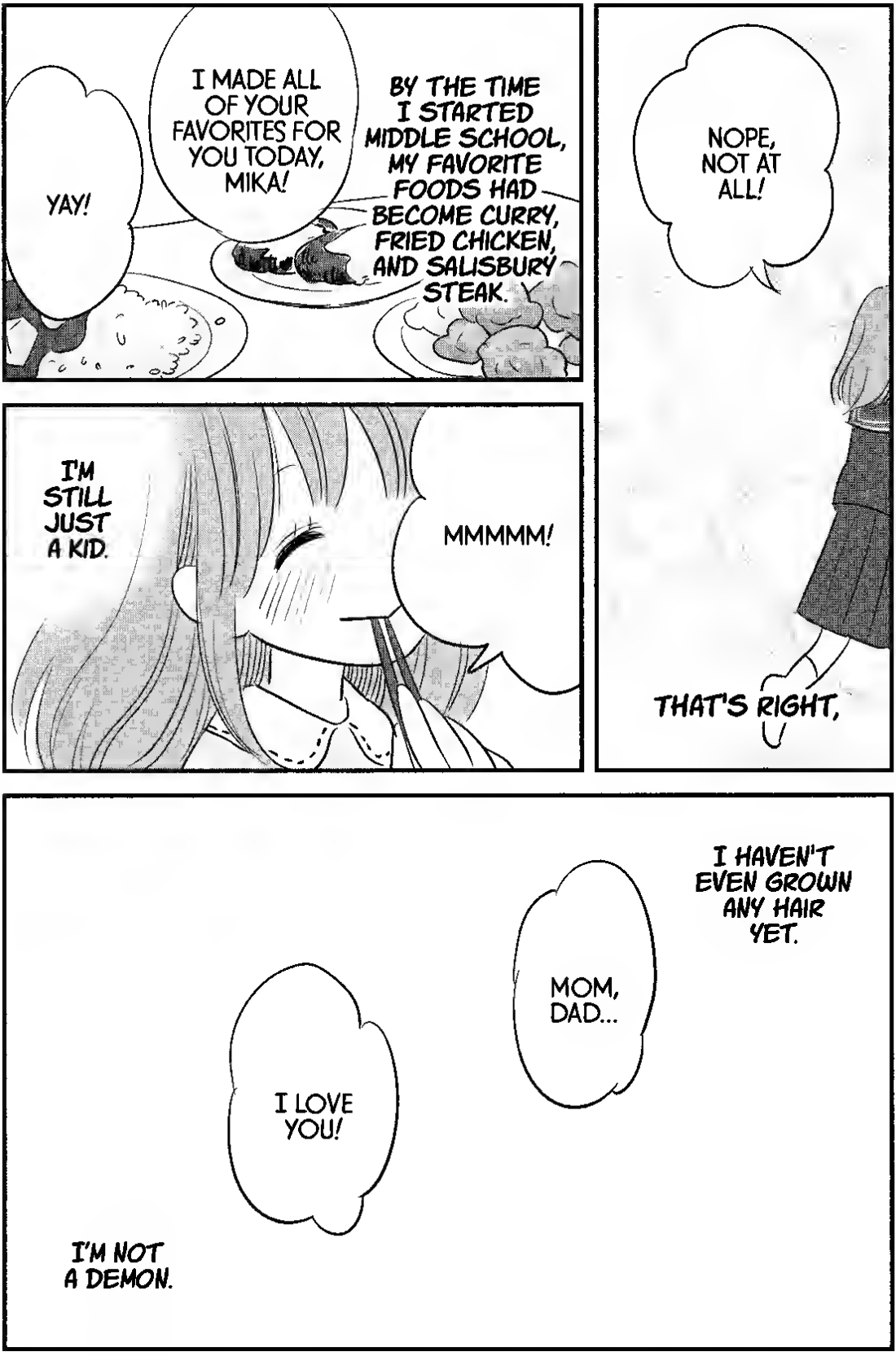

YOU'RE WAKING UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD WITH ALL THIS!
I WAS JUST TRYING TO GET RID OF A DEMON!
JUST TAKE CARE SO THAT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN AGAIN.


Ugh...

OH.
AAAA

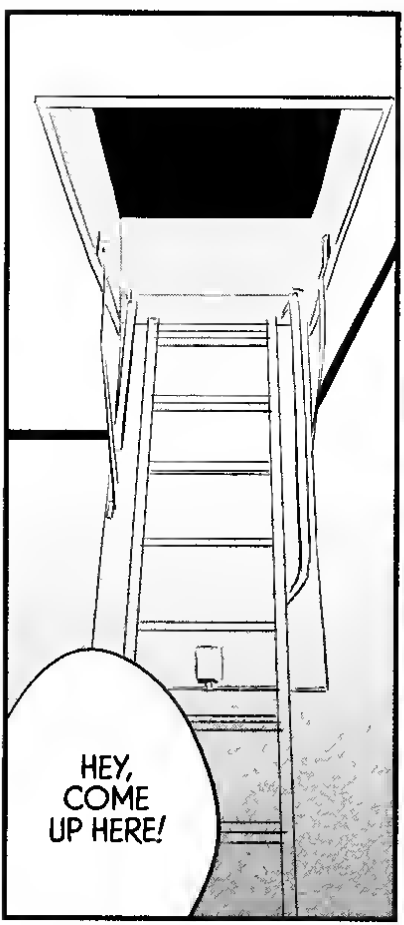
HE MADE ME FEEL REALLY BAD.
I WAS SCARED...
WITH THAT, I PRETENDED TO CRY.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US SOONER?!
AND MOM AND DAD GOT SUPER ANGRY AT ME.
MY UNCLE WAS TAKEN AWAY BY THE POLICEMAN,
I...

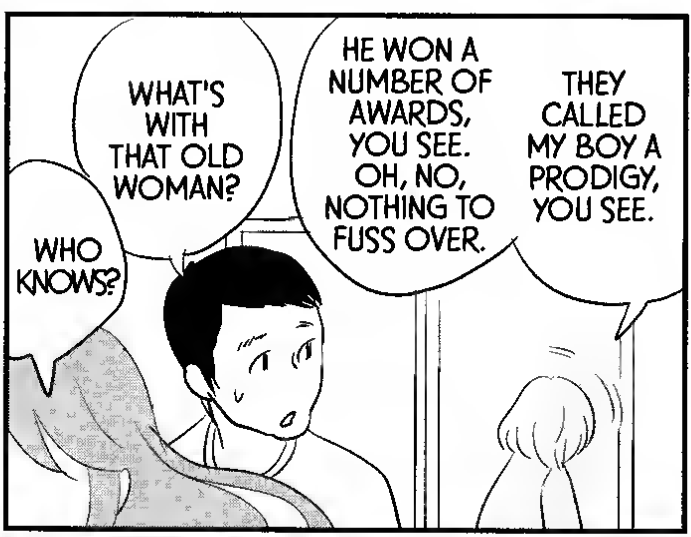
HEHE...
YOU THINK SO?
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
MY LITTLE MIKA IS ALREADY IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
うん
うん
Is he crying?
YOU'RE BECOMING AN ADULT NOW.


YAY!
I MADE ALL OF YOUR FAVORITES FOR YOU TODAY, MIKA!
BY THE TIME I STARTED MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY FAVORITE FOODS HAD BECOME CURRY, FRIED CHICKEN, AND SALISBURY STEAK.
I'M STILL JUST A KID.
MMMMM!
NOPE, NOT AT ALL!
THAT'S RIGHT,
I HAVEN'T EVEN GROWN ANY HAIR YET.
MOM, DAD...
I LOVE YOU!
I'M NOT A DEMON.

WELCOME.
MY, MY, A GUEST?

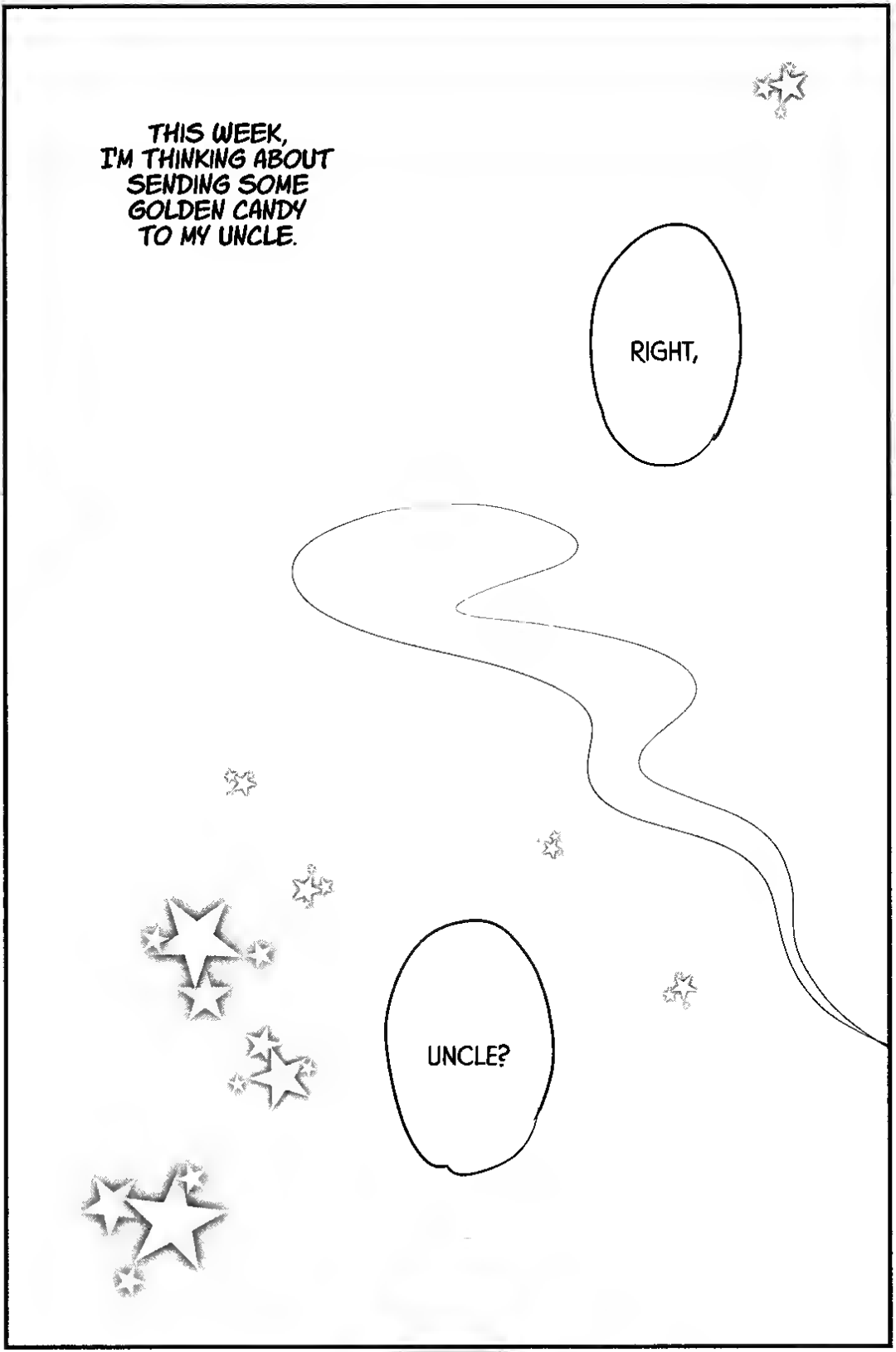
HERE?
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.


HEY, COME UP HERE!


WHO KNOWS?
WHAT'S WITH THAT OLD WOMAN?
HE WON A NUMBER OF AWARDS, YOU SEE. OH, NO, NOTHING TO FUSS OVER.
THEY CALLED MY BOY A PRODIGY, YOU SEE.

MAYBE SHE'S SOMETHING LIKE A GHOST.

YOU'RE A STRANGE PERSON, YOU KNOW THAT?
I'M JUST A NORMAL WOMAN.
EVEN IF, THEY DO TURN ME INTO AN ADULT.
EVERY NOW AND THEN, I STEAL SOME OF GRANDPA'S CIGARETTES.


THIS WEEK, I'M THINKING ABOUT SENDING SOME GOLDEN CANDY TO MY UNCLE.
RIGHT,
UNCLE?

おわり

OH YEAH, MIKA...
TOMORROW IS YOUR BIRTHDAY, ISN'T IT?
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
UM...
A JOB?
SHE DIDN'T HAVE A PENNY TO HER NAME.

ワンルームシックノーパンツ

one room [sick-chic] no pants

CHAPTER 1:
A GROUP OF POOR BANDMATES

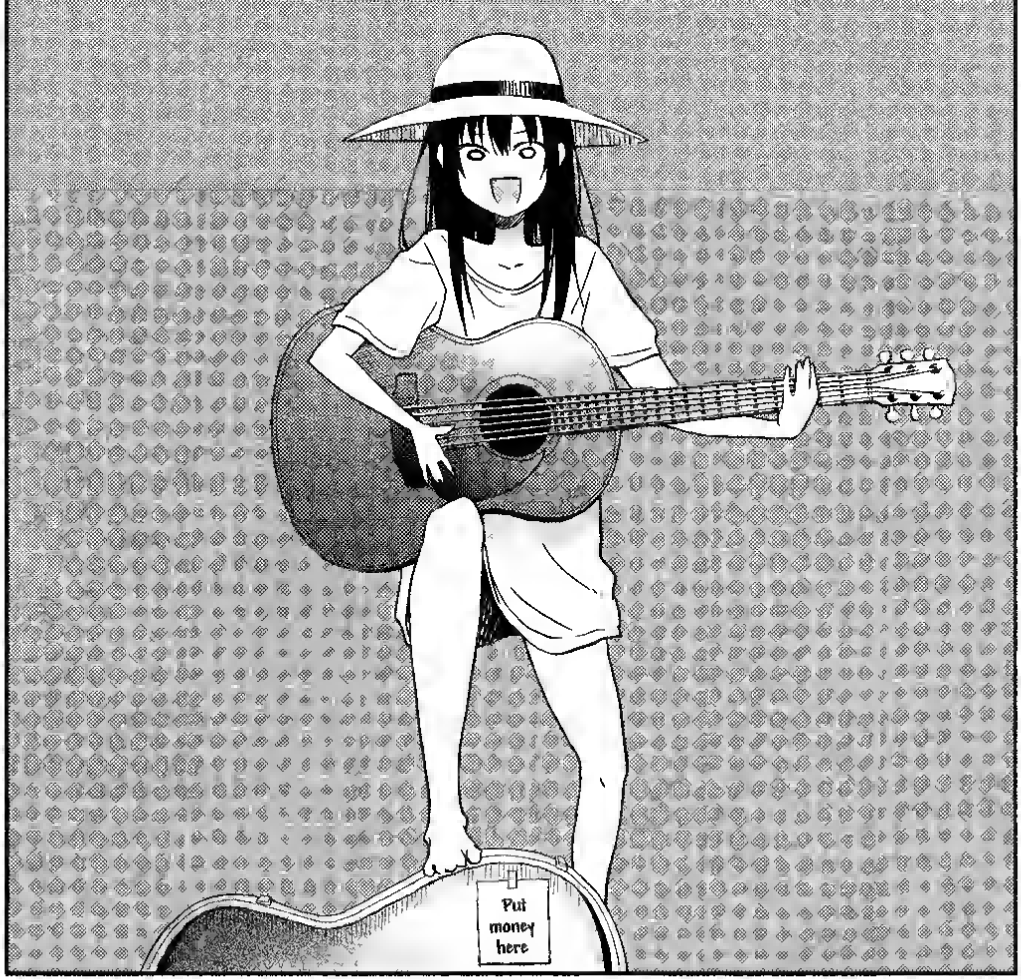
Sentimental Vector *(Taguchi Shouichi & Harukawa Misaki)*

THESE FOUR GIRLS ARE LIVING TOGETHER HERE AS A BAND.
BUILT 30 YEARS AGO,
130 FT², ONE ROOM, NO BATH.
This is the story of a girl named "Mika" living at the bottom of society and the people around her.
RICE,
I WISH I HAD SOME RICE TO EAT.
MIKA (GUITAR)
WE LET YOU OFF THE HOOK FOR YOUR PART OF THE RENT THIS MONTH BECAUSE IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY,
AND YOU STILL DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY?
NEKO (BASS)
NOPE!
I GOT FIRED, SO I'M BROKE!
ALL I HAVE LEFT IS THE BAND!!

IF ONLY YOU COULD EAT MUSIC AND FILL UP THAT WAY.
LET'S SAY SHE COULD...
SUMIRE (DRUMS)
SHEENA (VOCALS AND GUITAR)

WITH YOUR JANGLY GUITAR ROCK AND YOUR CUTESY POP MUSIC...
YOU ALL,
HOW CAN YOU EVEN LISTEN TO THAT STUFF?
HER FAVORITE GENRE IS METAL, RIGHT?
Ooo, THAT WOULD BE PRETTY HEAVY ON YOUR STOMACH.
RUDE!
MENTAL IMAGE

国産直輸送
YOU KNOW,
WHAT ABOUT EARNING SOME MONEY WITH YOUR MUSIC?
MIKA, YOU'RE A GUITARIST,
SHUT UP!
HAVE YOUR BRAINS BEEN SOAKING IN SYRUP?!
SOREDA!!
(That's it!!)
GO PLAY YOUR ACOUSTIC GUITAR AND SING AROUND THE TRAIN STATION!
YEAH!
LIKE BEING A STREET MUSICIAN!
チキーン
……


Put money here

HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA HAHA !!!!!!
A SPITTING IMAGE!
LIAR!
NO STREET PERFORMER LOOKS LIKE THAT!
LET'S NOT FORGET TO WEAR PANTIES, MIKA.

QUIET, PLEASE.
ALLOW ME TO PLAY A SONG.
THE NAME OF THE SONG IS...
パチ
わ
パチ
パチ

METALLICA'S
MASTER OF PUPPETS!

Obey Your Master!!

Master of Puppets

The title song to the 3rd album released by the influential metal band "Metallica", who formed in 1981.
A song so popular that countless musicians over the years have done covers of it.
The album is called "Metal Master" in Japan.
Not a song that street musicians typically play.

MASTER OF PUPPETS
Words & Music by James Hetfield, Lars Ulrich, Cliff Burton and Kirk Hammett
©1985 CREEPING DEATH MUSIC
Permiss on granted by Consortium Music Publishing Japan Ltd
Authorized for sale only in Japan
JASRAC出 1402272-401

MASTER!!

NO ONE ASKED YOU TO SHOW OFF HOW GOOD YOU ARE AT CHANGING RHYTHM!!

THAT'S FUCKING METAL!

QUIT STRUMMING THE RIFF WITH YOUR ACOUSTIC GUITAR!

LISTEN HERE,
IF YOU'RE TRYING TO EARN MONEY, YOU GOTTA CATER TO YOUR AUDIENCE.
It's a business...
HOW ABOUT THIS...
You're Talking about J-POP, aren't ya?!
I DON'T KNOW ANY CHO-RDS.
PLAY SOME EMOTIONAL CHORDS WHILE SINGING STUFF LIKE "I LOVE YOU" AND "I WISH I COULD SEE YOU RIGHT NOW".
WHAT?! NO WAY!!
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A GUITARIST?!
WHAT-EVER!

I WAS BORN AND RAISED IN SAITAMA, THE CITY OF ROCK!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? 5TH AVENUE, HUH?!
TO PLAY GUITAR, ALL YOU NEED IS A STRONG LIBIDO AND A BURNING PATHOS!!

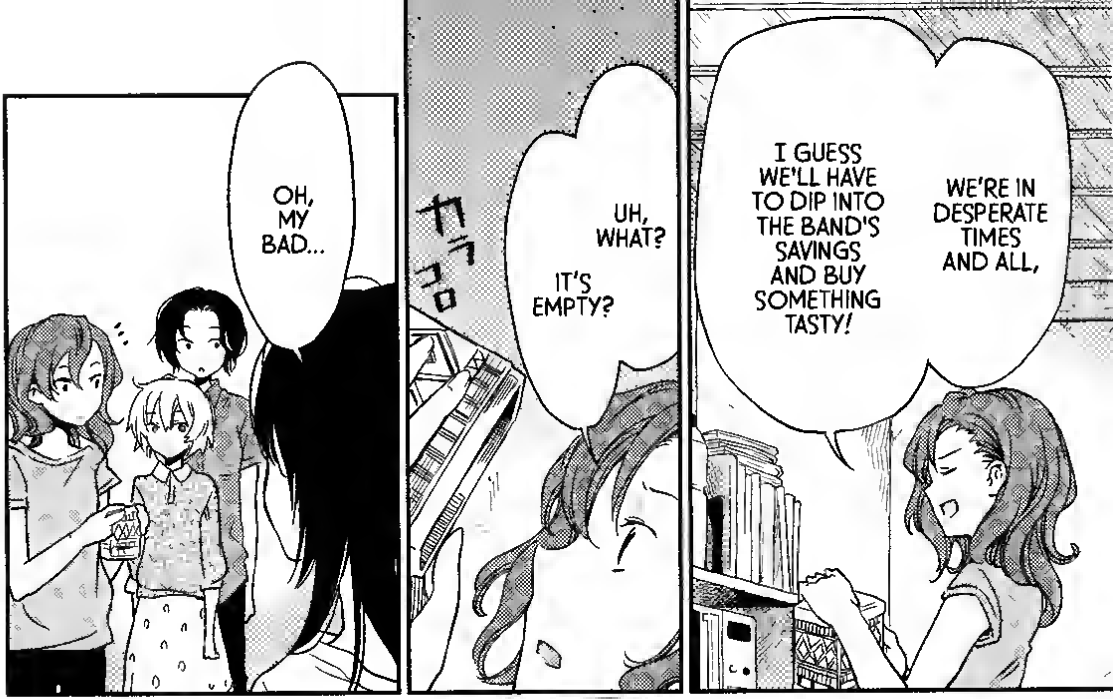
mama
ドサァ
MIKA!!
HUH?

YES SHE IS!
OH NO, SHE'S NOT BREATHING.
IS... IS SHE DEAD?!

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU WENT CRAZY ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
I SWEAR, THIS GIRL...

OOPS...
※
I DIDN'T HAVE THE ENERGY LEFT,
TO DO ALL THAT.

WAIT, MAYBE, MEAT?!
RICE!
DON'T GET TOO EXCITED, ALRIGHT?
WHAT IF... WE THROW A BIRTHDAY PARTY?
VEG-GIES!
MEAT!
MEAT!
SHE DOESN'T LOOK ANYWHERE CLOSE TO DYING, THOUGH.
IF SHE DIES TODAY, THEN WE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CELEBRATE ANYWAY.


WE'RE IN DESPERATE TIMES AND ALL,
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO DIP INTO THE BAND'S SAVINGS AND BUY SOMETHING TASTY!
UH, WHAT?
IT'S EMPTY?
カラ
コロ
OH, MY BAD...

Kicked out of the Band.

HOW MANY TIMES DO I NEED TO SAY IT?
THE CHARACTERS IN YOUR NOVELS ARE TOO BORING.
REJECTED!
Haha...
JUST LIKE THEIR AUTHOR.
My name is Kusada Haruka,
I'm a third-rate novelist.
While I have published one novel before,
I can't ever seem to get another one done.
So I find myself walking home again without anything to show for it today.
I'M HOME!
HA...
AS IF ANYONE IS HERE TO RESPOND...

Chapter 2 - I am Mika. I currently have no home.

MIKA!
WHY YOU LITTLE !!
HOW'D YOU GET IN HERE?!
I BROKE THE LOCK.
WHAT ARE YOU, A BURGLAR?!
YOU'RE LIVING IN LUXURY HERE.
YOU HAVE SO MUCH RICE.
AH! SON OF A...
YOU COOKED IT ALL!

GIVE ME A BREAK!
DID YOU COME TO LEECH OFF OF ME SOME MORE?
I'm not exactly rich, you know?
I GET THAT IT TAKES MONEY TO BE IN A BAND, BUT...
THE BAND...

I DON'T HAVE ONE ANYMORE!
AGH!
THE ONLY THING I HAVE LEFT, IS THIS.
PEP
This girl, Mika,
May be a worthless excuse of a person,
But she wasn't always like that.

WANNA GO OUT DRINKING?
HUH?
YEAH, SURE.
HEY, KUSADA!
At least, She wasn't like that in college.
KU-SADA!
YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER.
THE MORE PEOPLE, THE LESS EACH OF US HAS TO PAY.
Haruaki Story Contest Guidelines
YOU'LL COME TOO, RIGHT, MIKA?
EVERY-ONE COME!
IT'LL BE FUN!
Kusada says he's coming!

NO...
I...
EH?
COME ON, YOU KNOW YOU WANNA!
CHEERS!
WHAT, REALLY?
YOU DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
WHY DON'T YOU GET ONE?
EH, I DON'T REALLY WANT ONE.

LIAR.
I GET IT, YOU'RE SCARED, RIGHT?
WHY?
SINCE YOU'RE SO CUTE, I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
OH, YEAH, YEAH, I CAN'T BLAME YOU.
SO TRUE, SO TRUE!
WHAT ARE YOU GIRLS TALKING ABOUT OVER HERE?
HOW GUYS LIKE YOU AREN'T RIGHT FOR MIKA!
AW!
COME ON, AM I THAT MUCH OF A PLAYER?
Yeah you are, hahahaha!
WHAT DO YA SAY, MIKA?
AM I LIKE THAT?
WHAT? UH...
YOU'RE SCARING HER!
AWW MAN, COME ON!
GO AWAY!
.....

AH.
Sup.
Hi.
……
?

TH...
THANKS.
HERE.
YEAH,
YOU, UH,
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE GOT IT ROUGH.
HM?
THEM TREATING YOU LIKE A MASCOT.
OH,
YEAH, I GUESS.
HMPH.
CONVER-SATIONS WHERE EVERYONE IS JUST FOLLOWING THE MOOD AND GETTING EXCITED OVER EVERY LITTLE THING.
YOU COULD LOOK AT IT LIKE THAT'S HOW MUCH THEY ALL LIKE YOU.
THEY'RE STUPID IF YOU ASK ME.

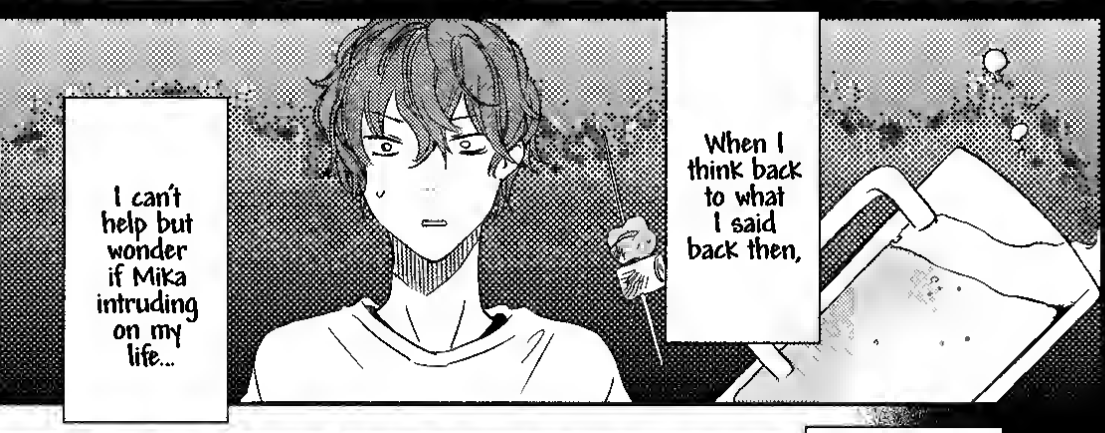
I WANT TO LIVE A MORE...
ROCK AND ROLL SORT OF LIFE
WHAT?
WHAT DOES THAT ACTUALLY MEAN?
TO STAND ALONE,
AND GO YOUR OWN WAY,
AVOIDING ANY UNNECESSARY RELATIONSHIPS.
OH, I SEE...
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS BY YOURSELF?
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT...
I MEAN, ROCK AND ROLL IS LIKE...

KHOW WHAT I MEAH?!
IT'S HOT-BLOO-DED!
THE SPIRIT AHD GUTS TO KILL 'EM WITH SOUHD!
.....
PHEW, I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT CONVERSATION LIKE THIS IN A LONG TIME.
GOOD TO HEAR.
HEY, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
YOU DON'T KNOW? WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS...
IS THAT SO?
I'M KUSADA HARUKA.
KUSADA? OH.
ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO GO ALONG WITH POINTLESS SMALL TALK LIKE,
"I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!"
YEAH, RIGHT! I DON'T KNOW AT ALL, ASSHOLE!!
I'M NOT LIKE THOSE FUCKING IDIOTS!

スポーン
PPPFFT!
"TO WALK THE SAME PATH TOGETHER AND SEE THE SAME SCENERY. THAT'S THE LIFE I WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH NEKO-SAN."
THAT KUSADA?
あ、ついた
NEKO AND I WERE IN THE SAME BAND.
NEKO -SAN, YOU'RE TOO LOOSE -LIPPED!
Neko (Bass)
PRETTY LAME THING TO SAY FOR SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO BE A WRITER.
WHY DO YOU KNOW ALL THAT?!
STILL, IS THAT REALLY SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SAY TO MY FACE?
HA HA HA!
HA HA HA!
YOU'RE MORE TALKATIVE THAN I THOUGHT, AREN'T YOU?
IS THIS YOUR TRUE SELF?
HUH?
OH, UH...
WELL...

YOU WANT TO BE ROCK AND ROLL, RIGHT?
WHY ARE YOU GETTING FLUSTERED?
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH IT.
IN FACT, YOU'D BE BETTER OFF ACTING THAT WAY ALL THE TIME.
YOUR SMUG LOOK PISSES ME OFF.
WHA?!
TELLING ME TO BE ROCK AND ROLL.
WHAT ARE YOU, THE MAIN CHAR-ACTER?
THAT LINE WAS CLICHE, SO CLICHE!
ぐさ
ぐさ
TCH.
I wish I hadn't said anything.

BUT...
THANKS.
バタン


When I think back to what I said back then,
I can't help but wonder if Mika intruding on my life...

Was in some sense my own fault...
TIME FOR WORK.
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WRITE ABOUT.
IF ONLY I HAD A GOOD SUBJECT.
AH!

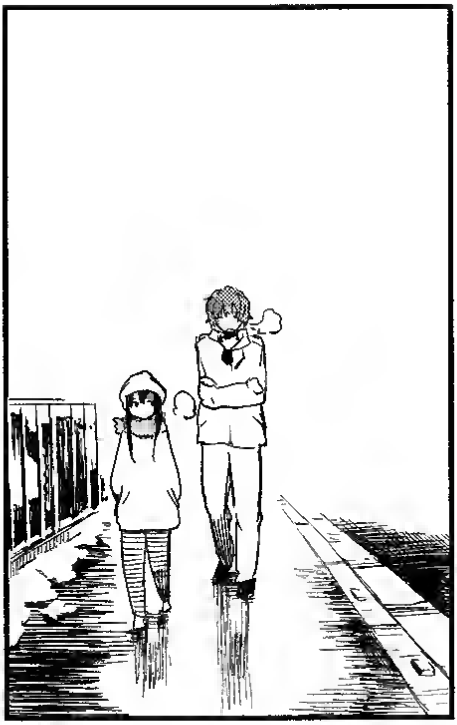
YOU'VE FINALLY GOT A DECENT CHARACTER.
RE...
REALLY?!
I SEE, I SEE.
THIS GIRL HAS AN INTERESTING PERSONALITY.
2F
Even people who are true human failures,
Will have times when they rise to the occasion and accomplish...
STILL...
Nothing.
Where are you going with this character?
REJECTED.

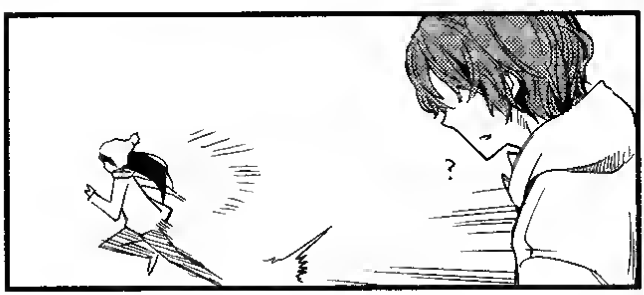
AT THE END OF THE LONG TUNNEL KNOWN AS "THE DEADLINE", THERE IS A WORLD FILLED WITH SNOW.

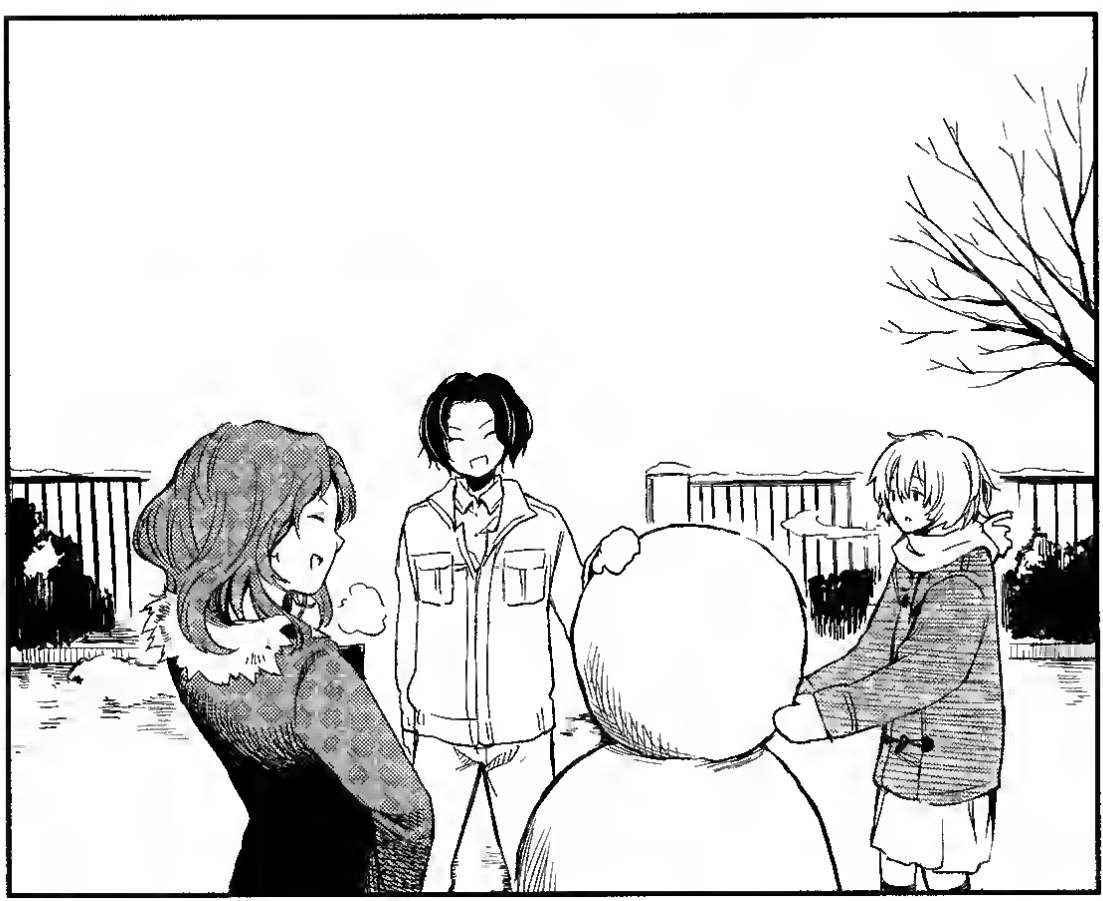
THE MANUSCRIPT TURNED WHITE.

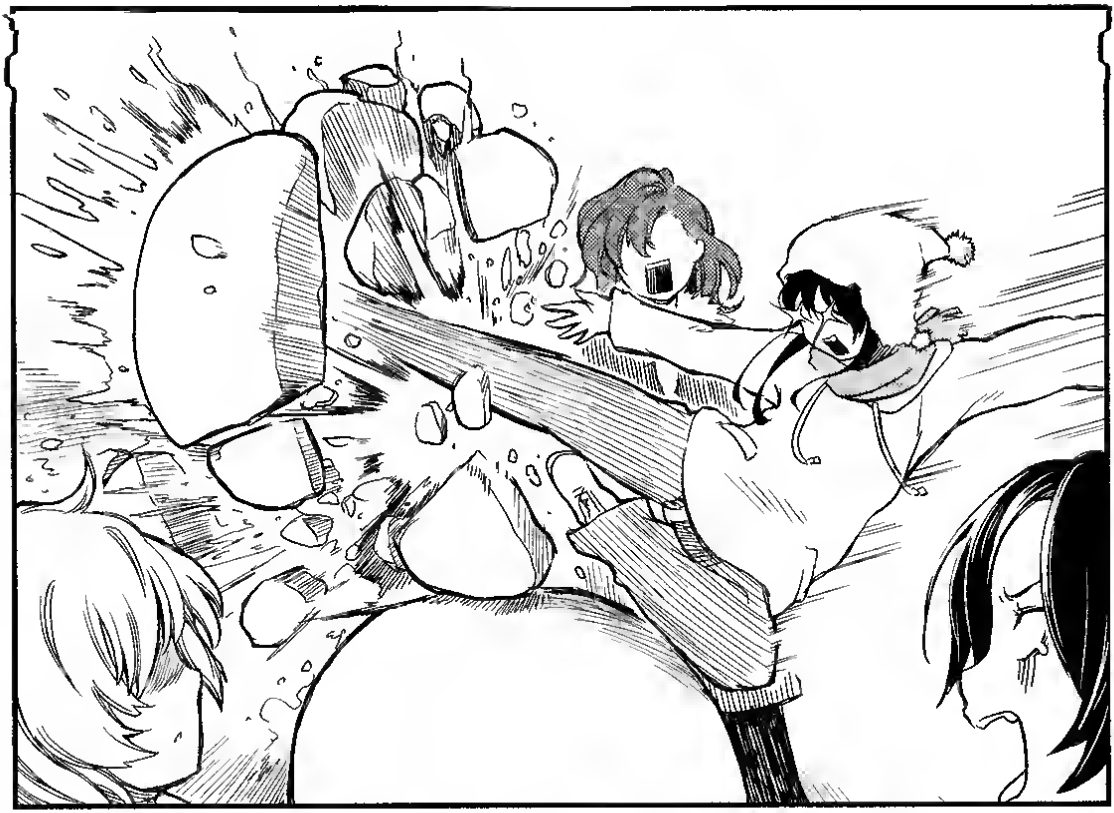
IT'S SNOWING!

WHOA, HOLD IT.
ARE YOU MY MOM?!
WHAT?
There we go...









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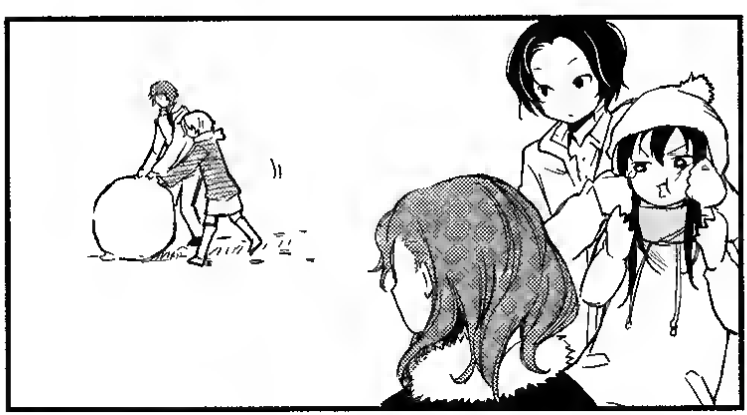
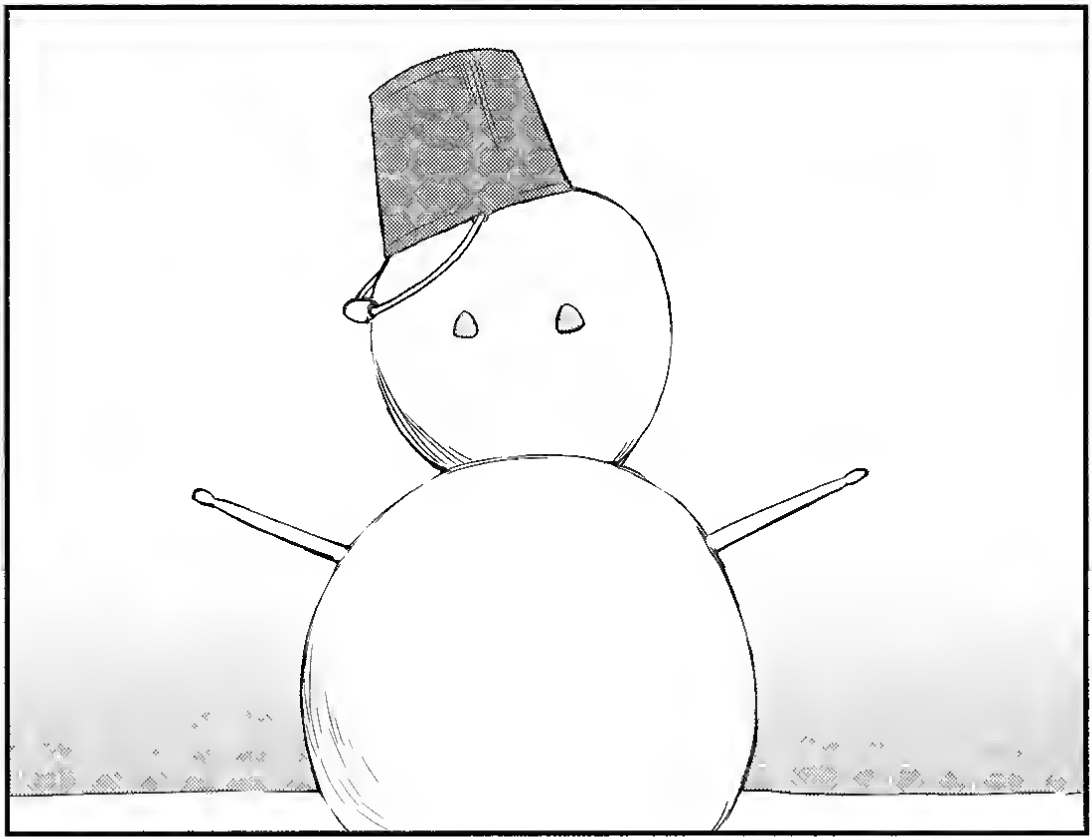
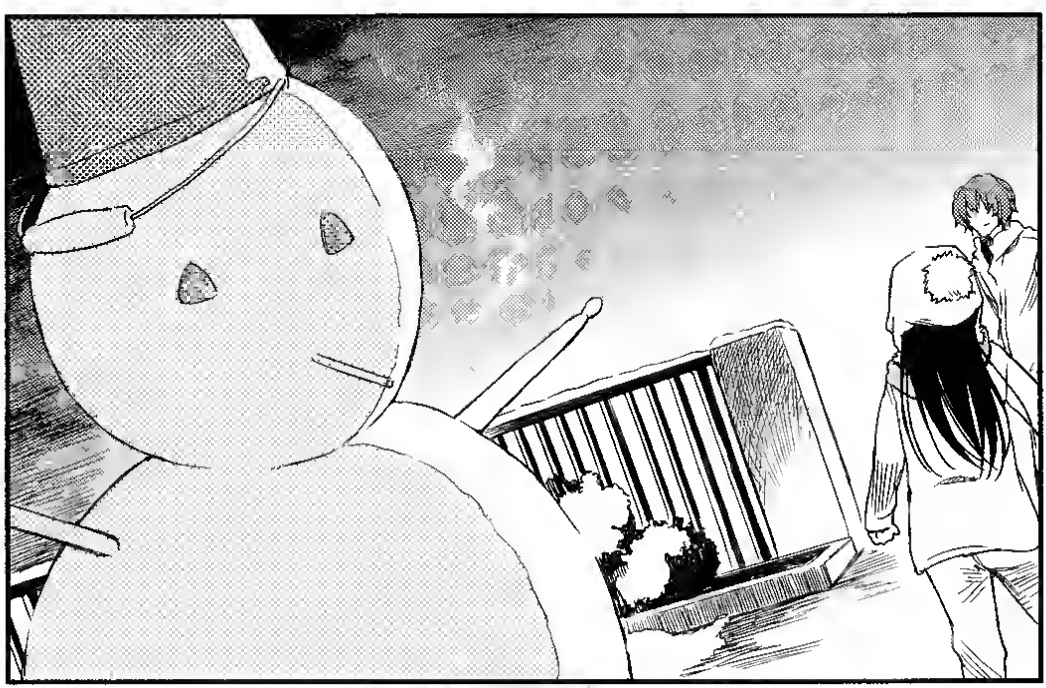
Seriously...
WHAT WAS THAT?!
COM HERE
ASSHOLE!
WAAA
HOW COULD YOU?!
JERK!!



Guitar pick



IT'S DARK!
AND COLD!
WE SHOULD HEAD HOME, TOO.



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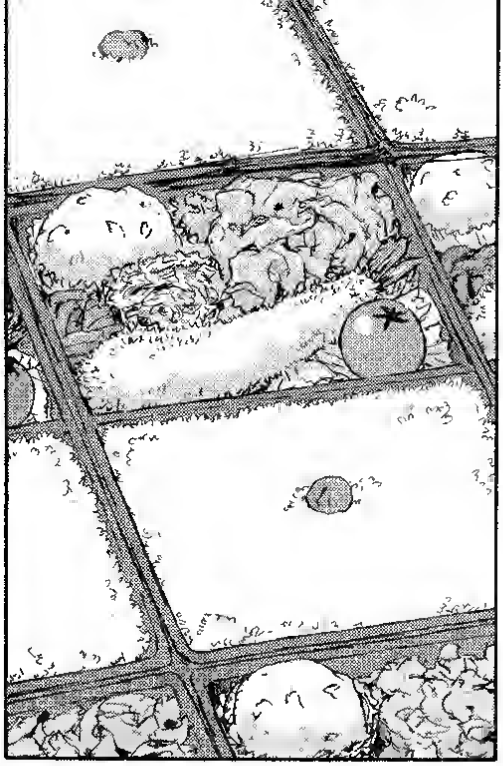
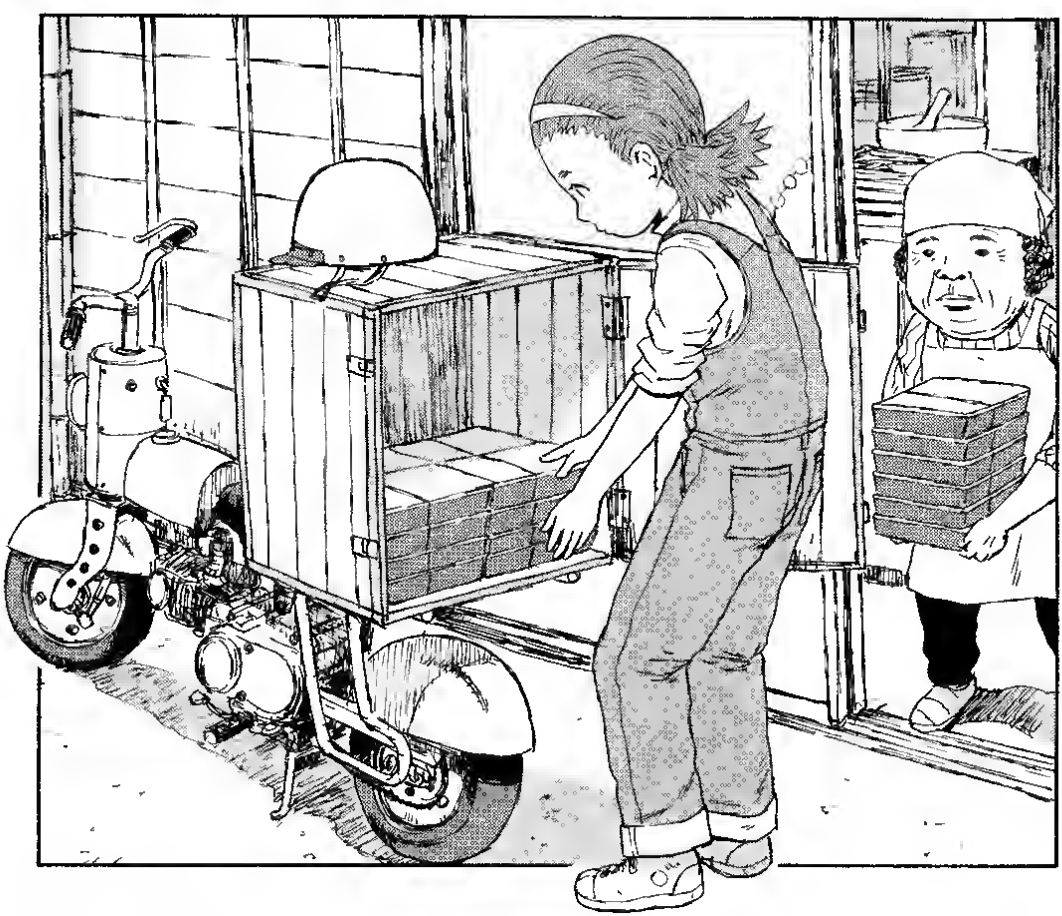


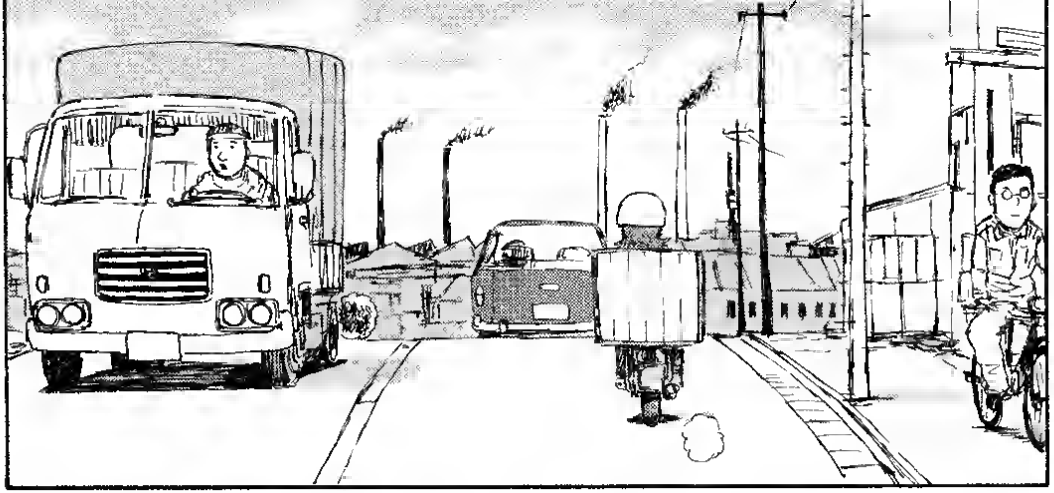


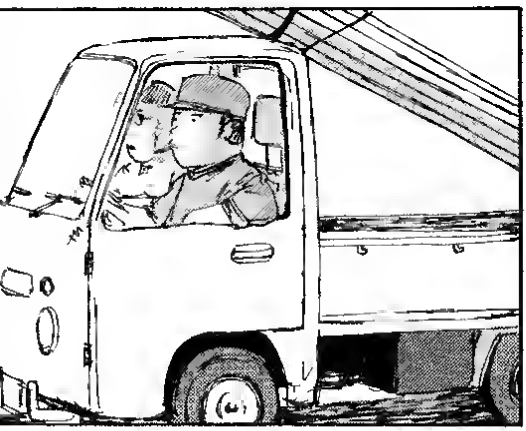
キューポラのハルちゃん

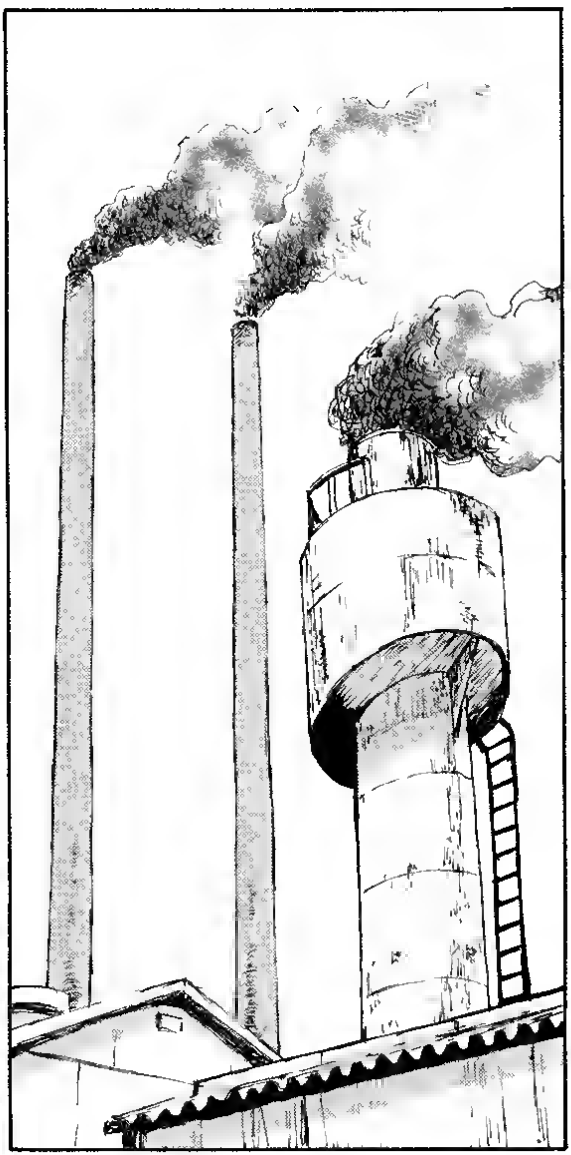
Haru of Cupola

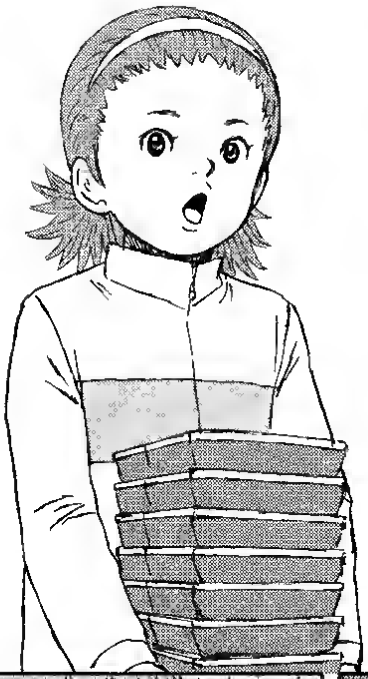
きらたかし

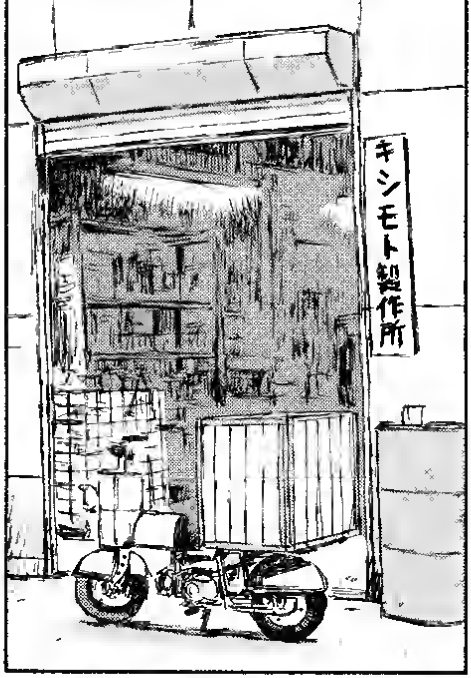
Takashi Kira







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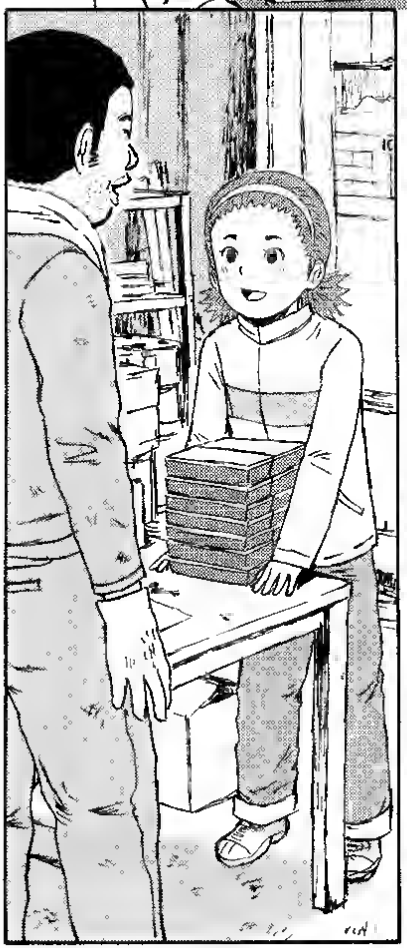

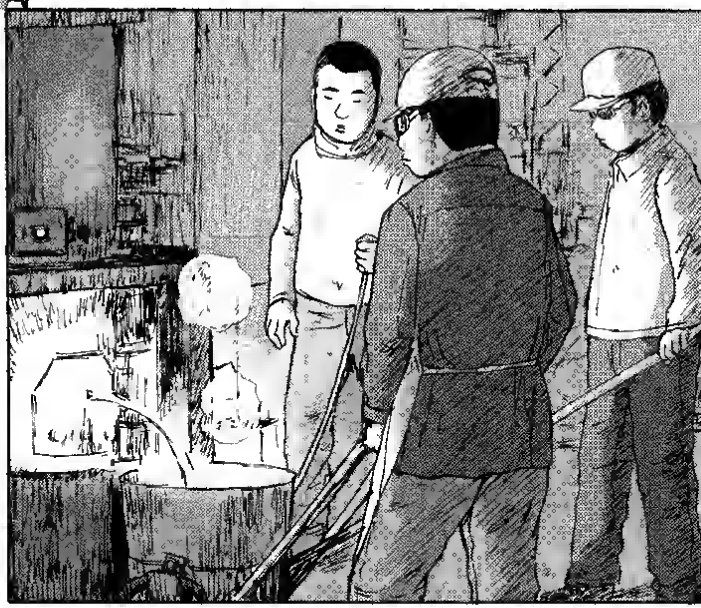

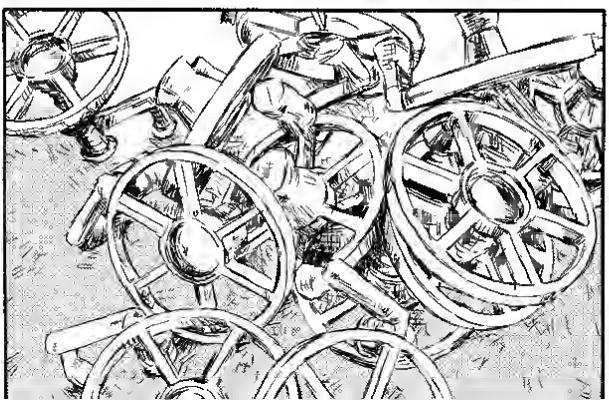

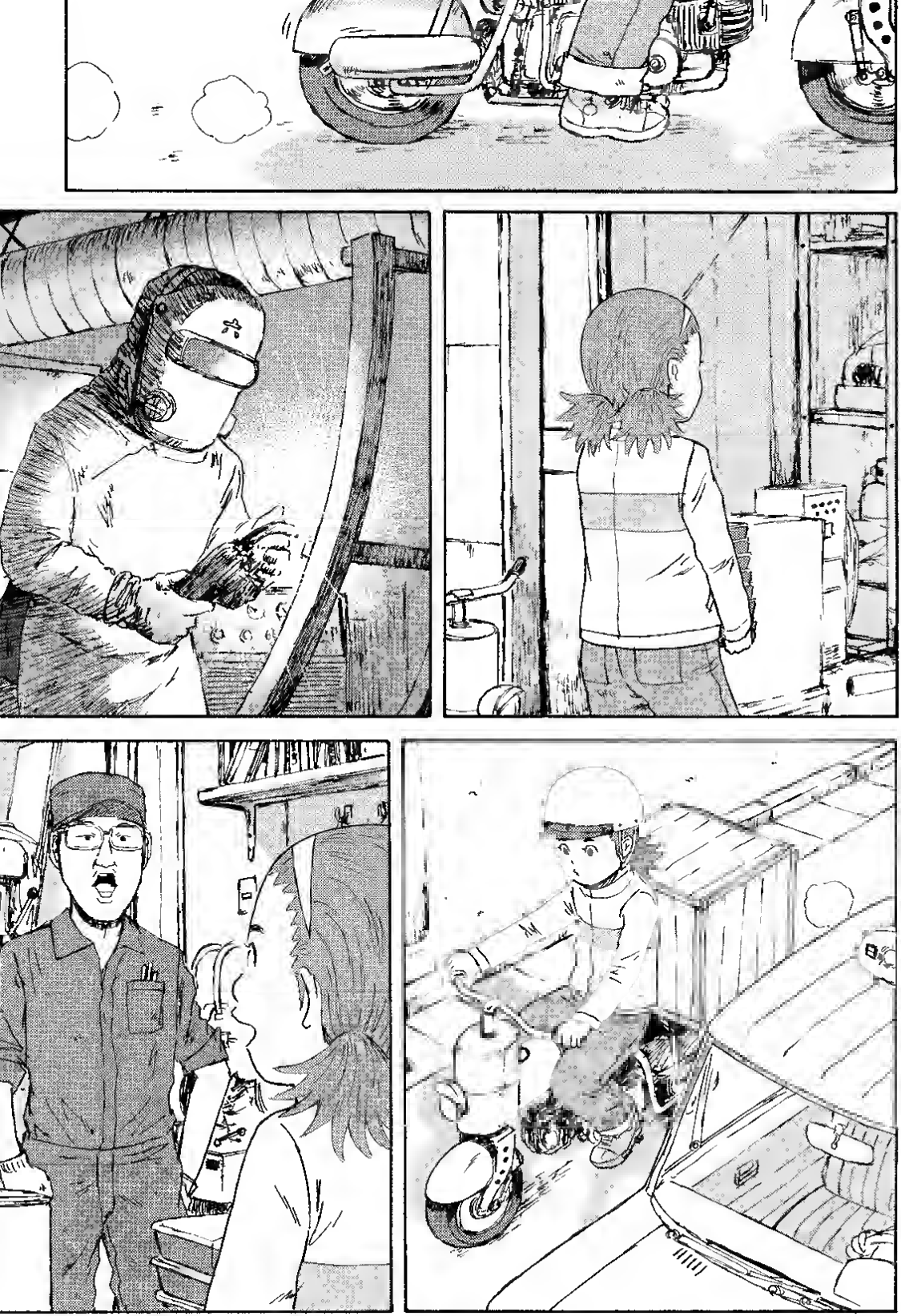

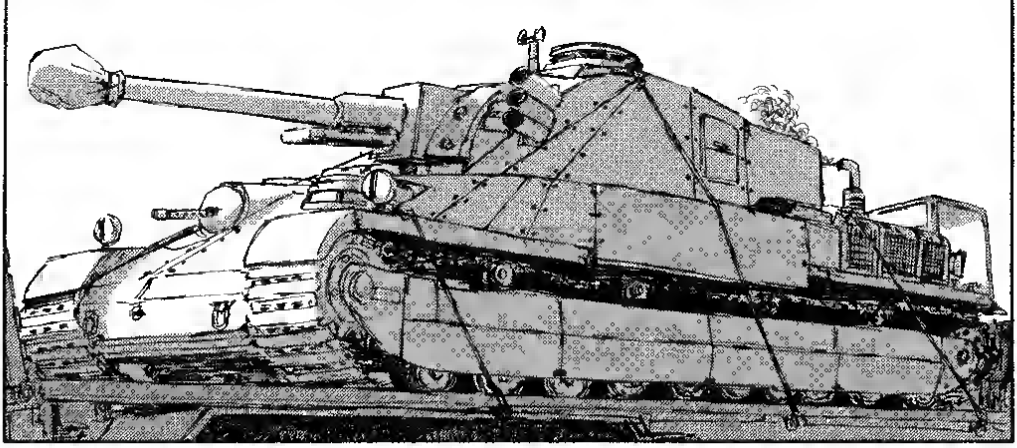

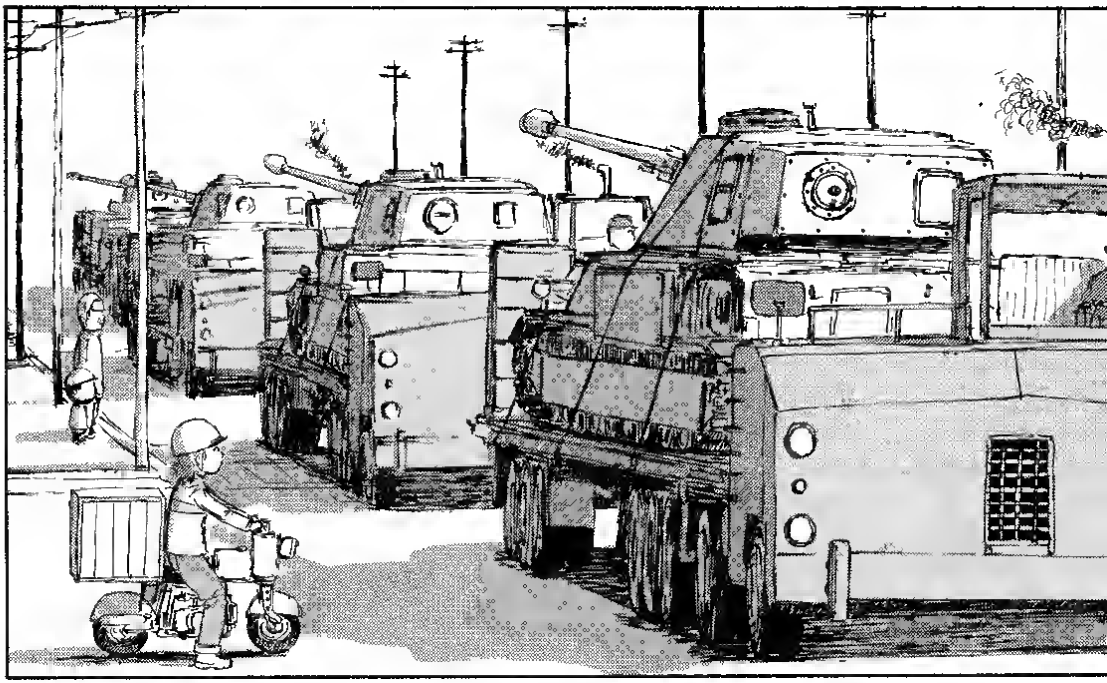

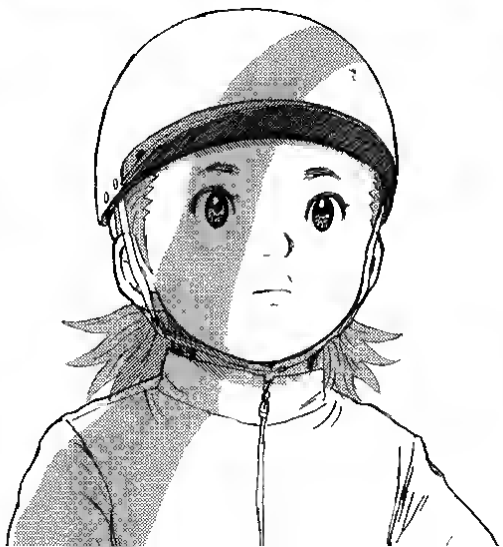

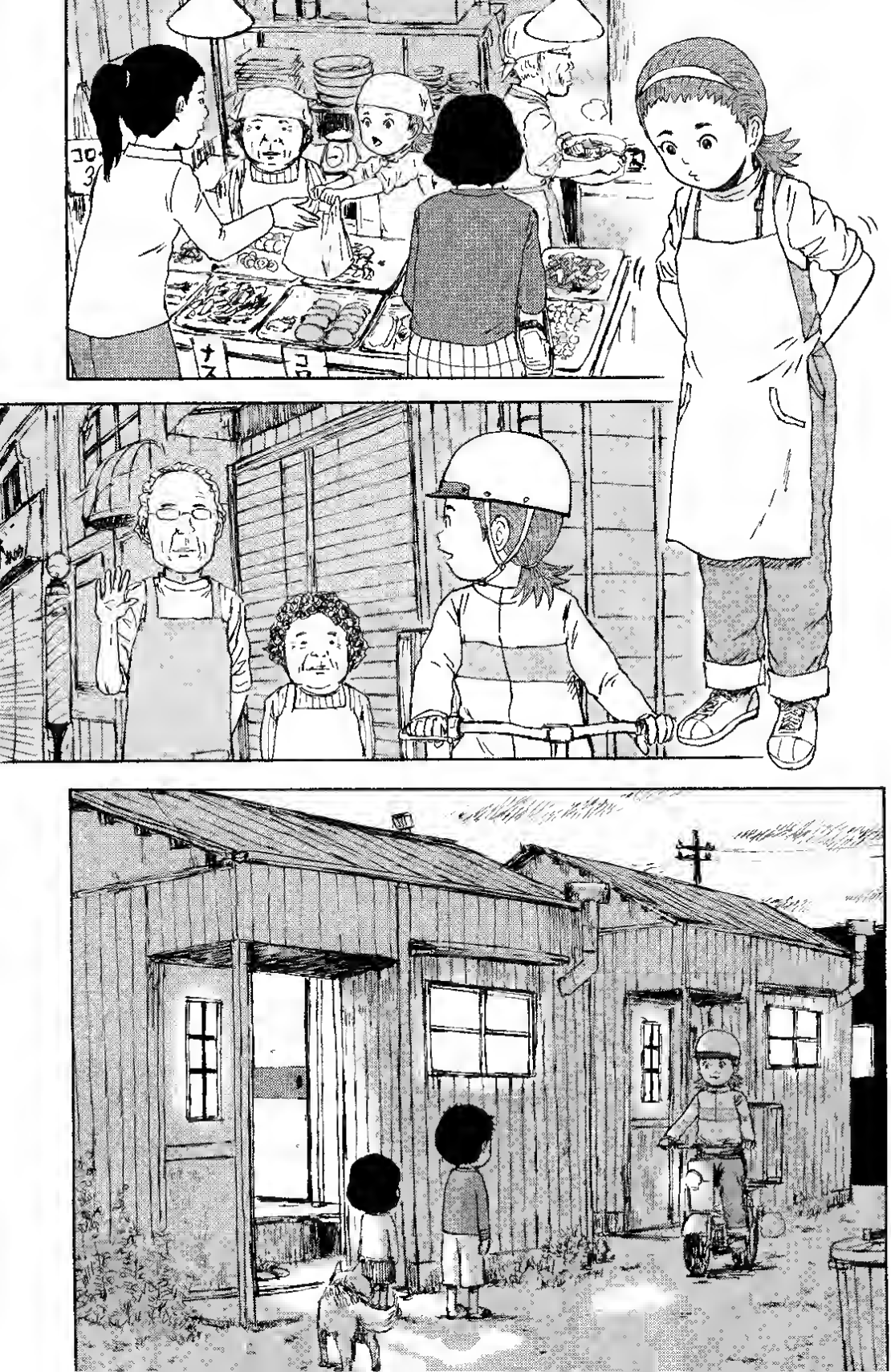

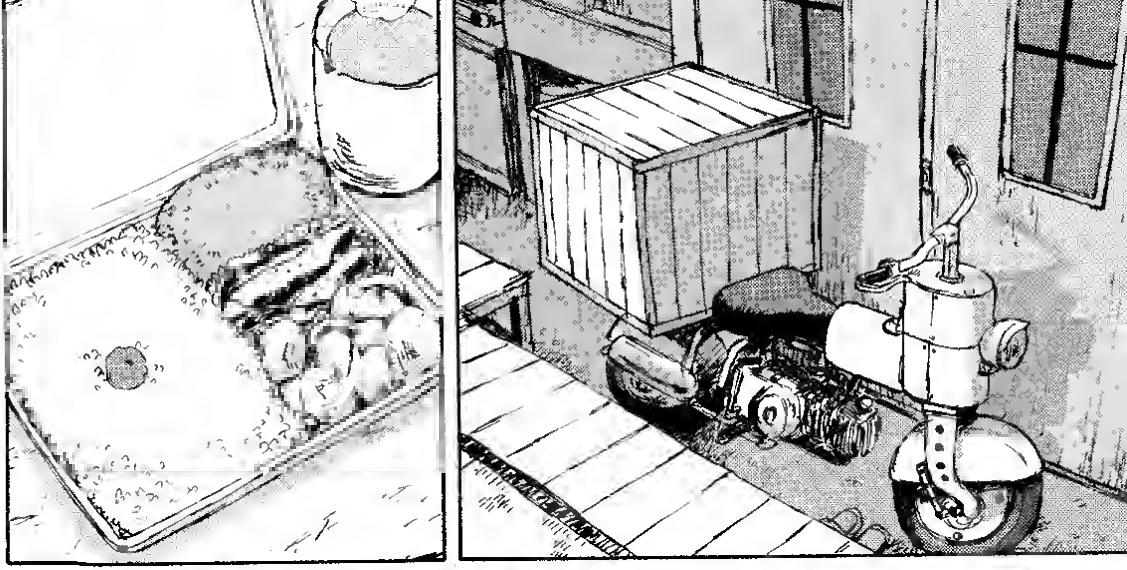

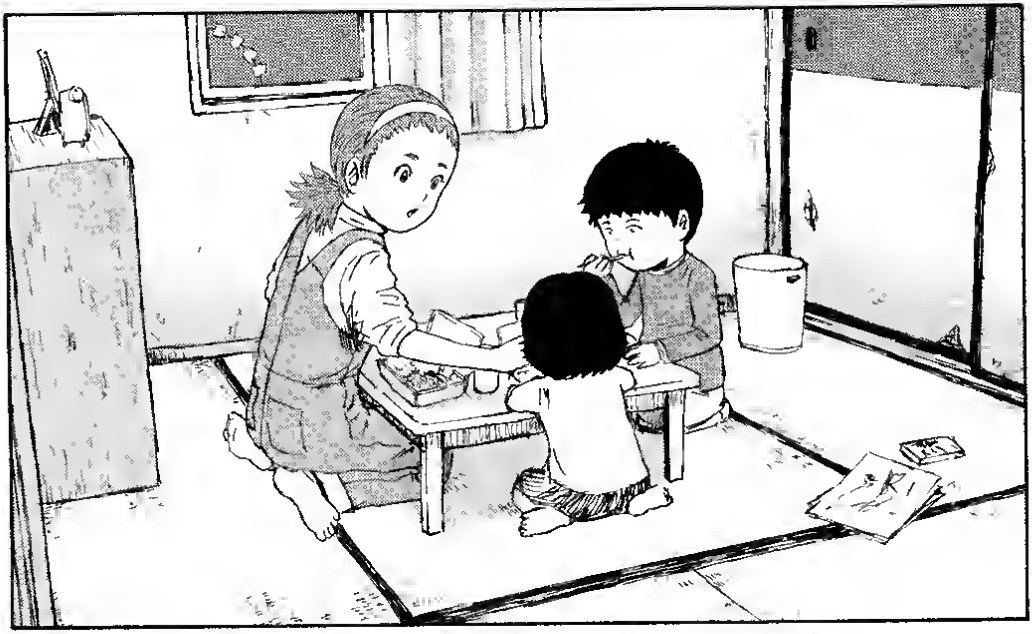

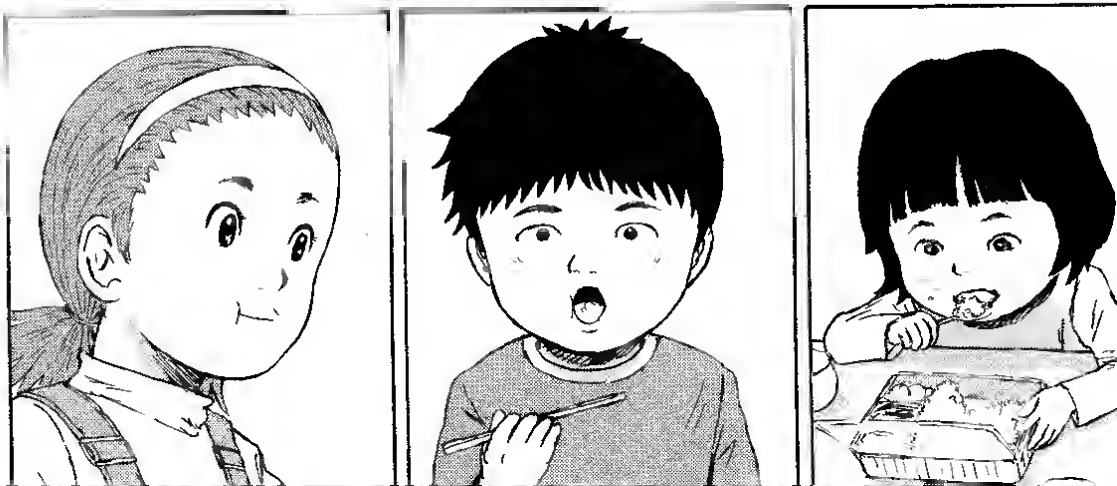

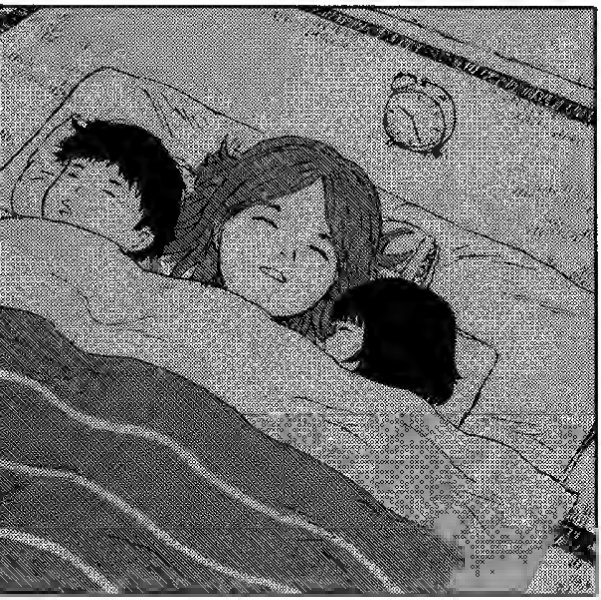

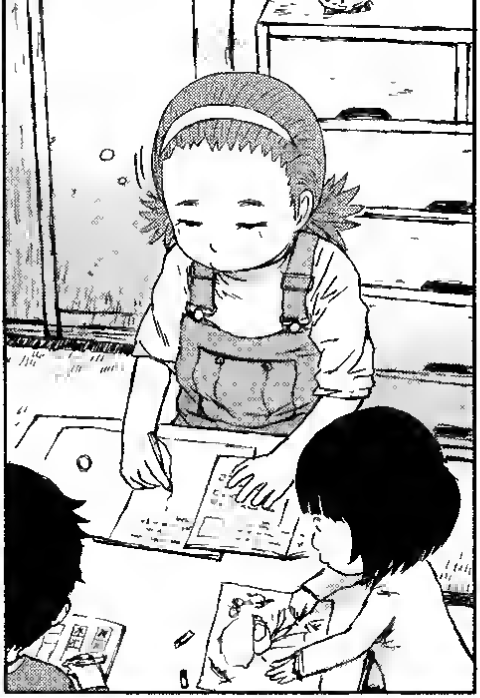

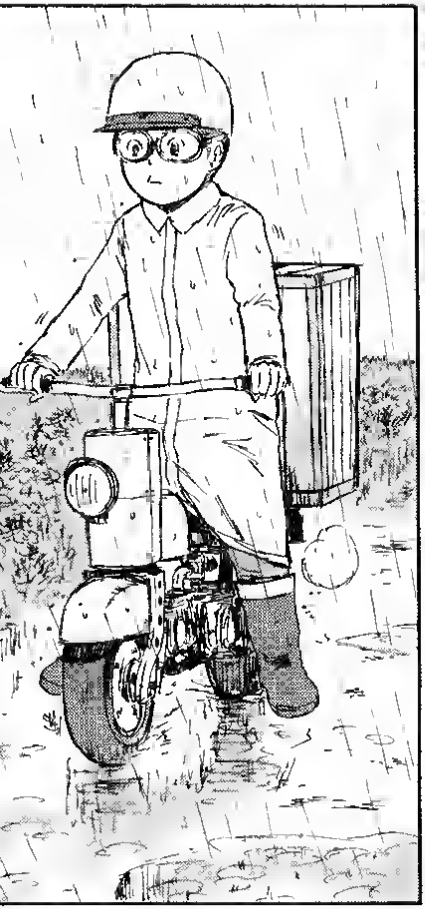

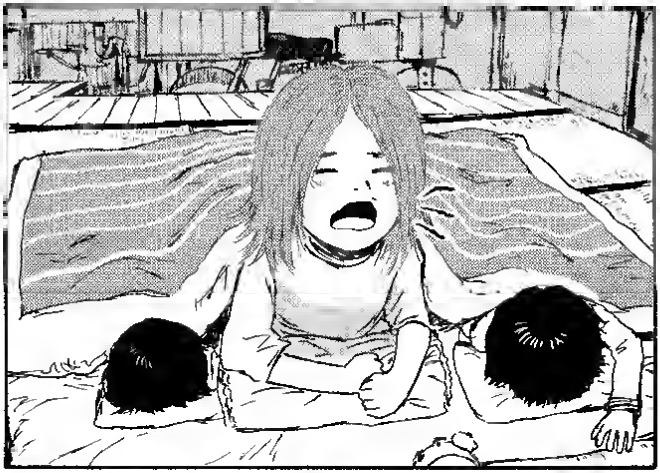

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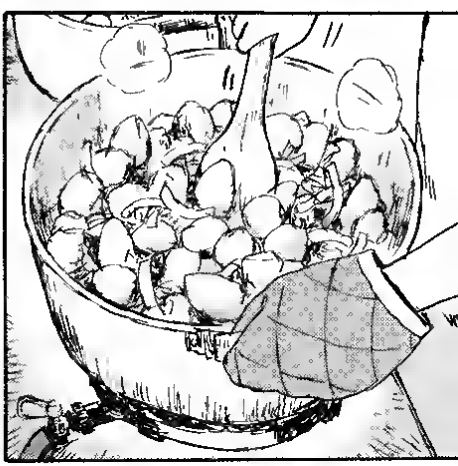
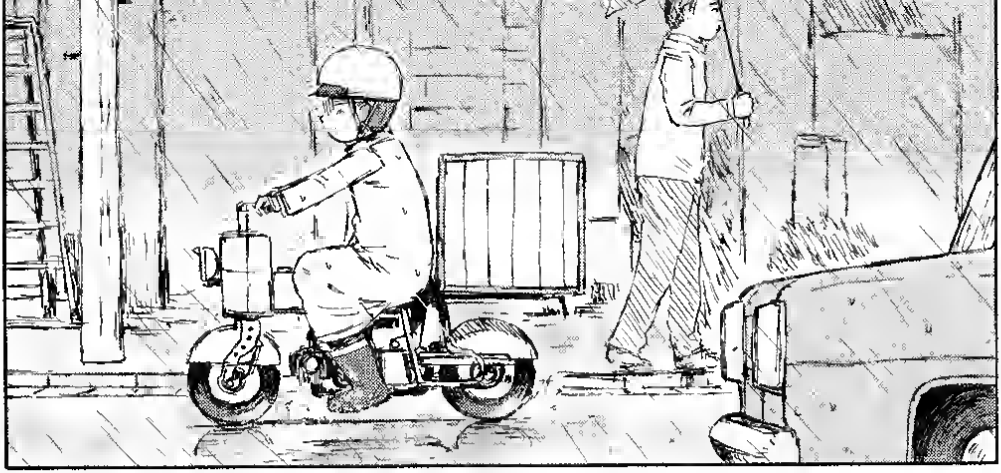
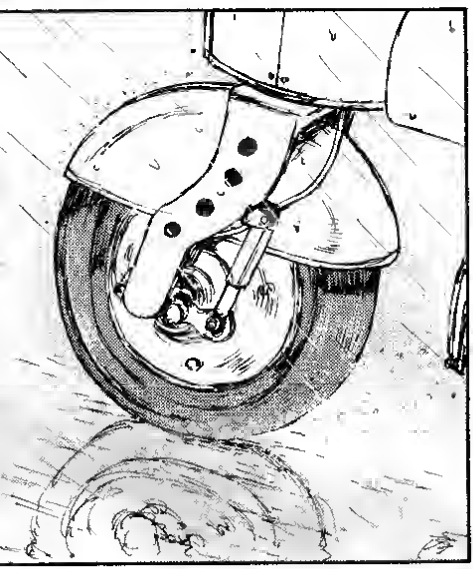
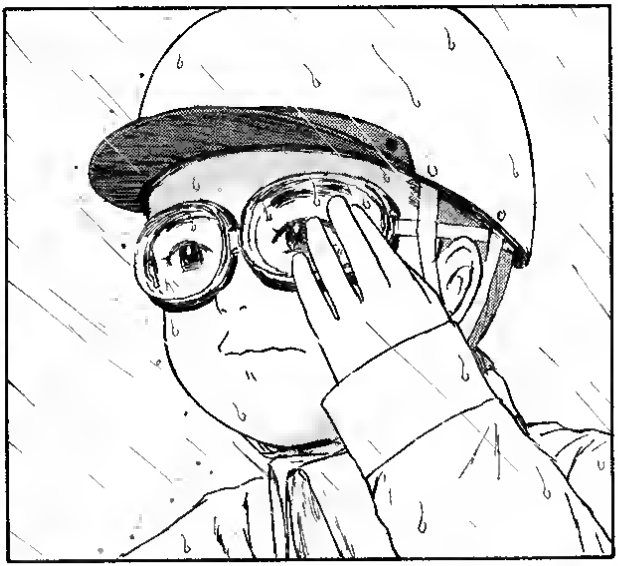
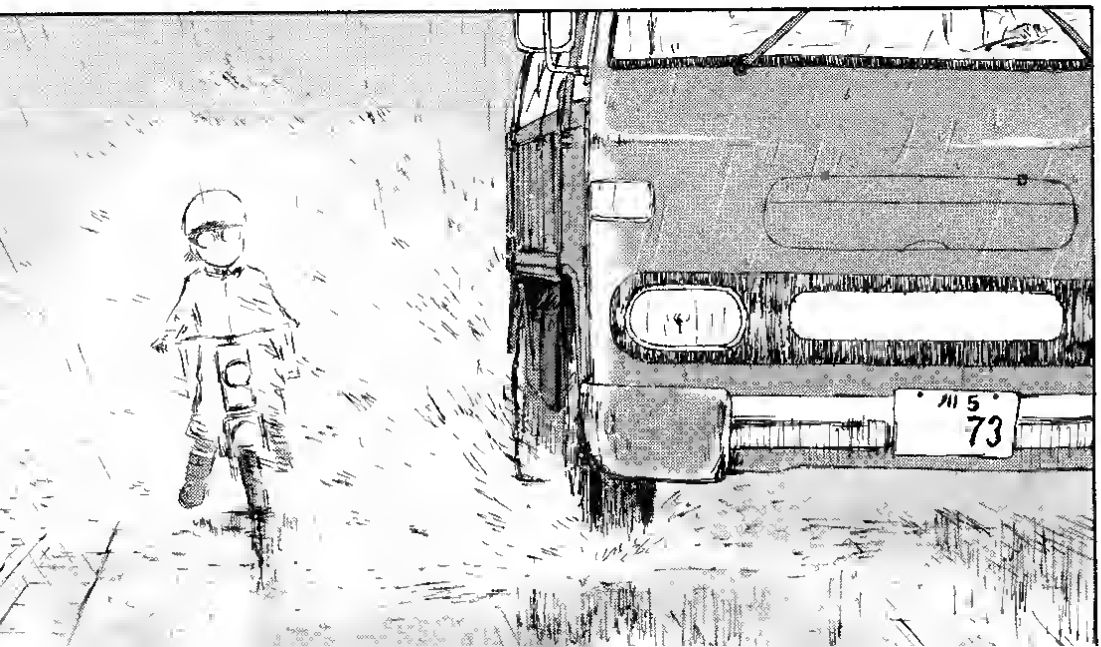
べんとう
そうざい







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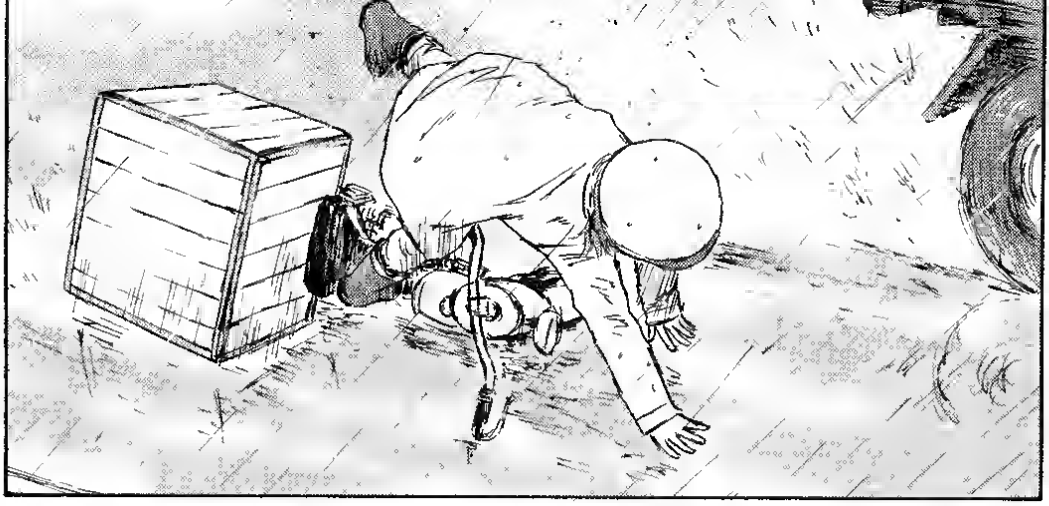

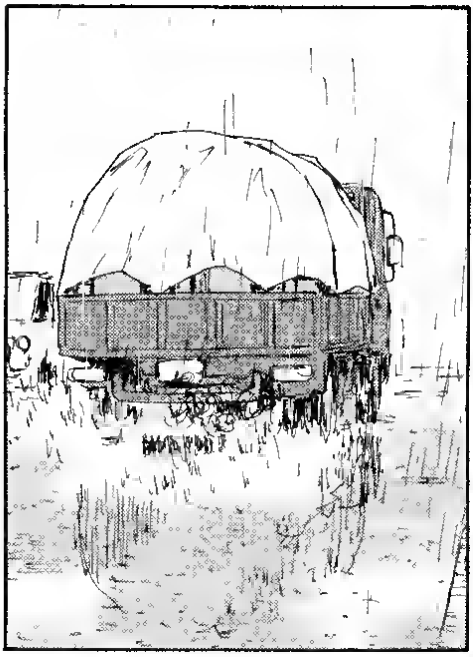

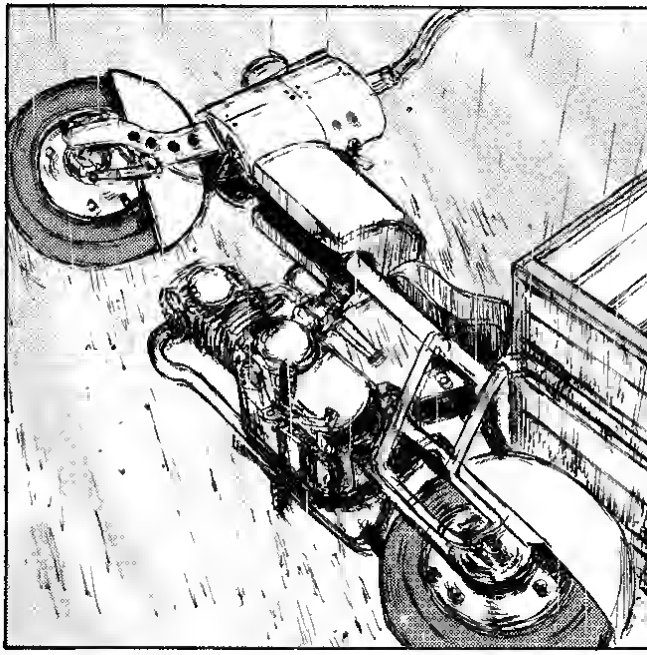

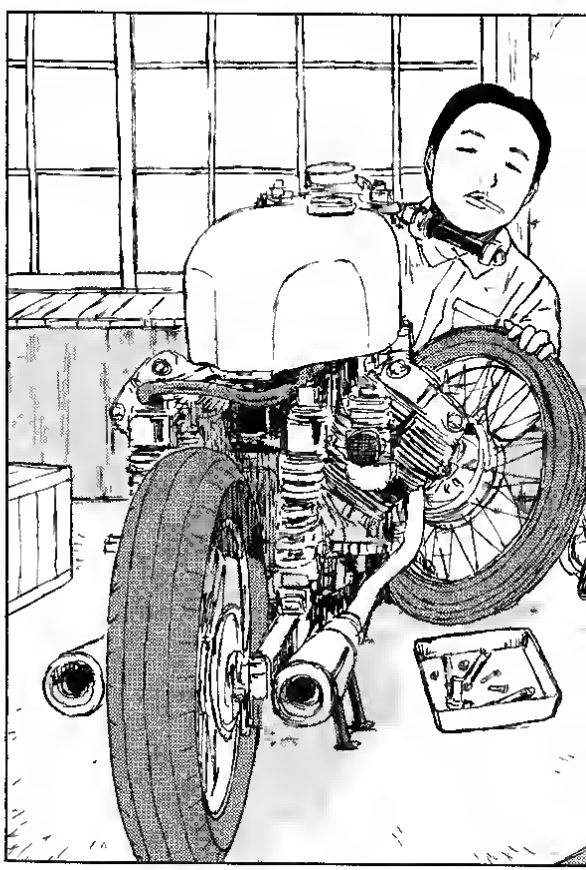

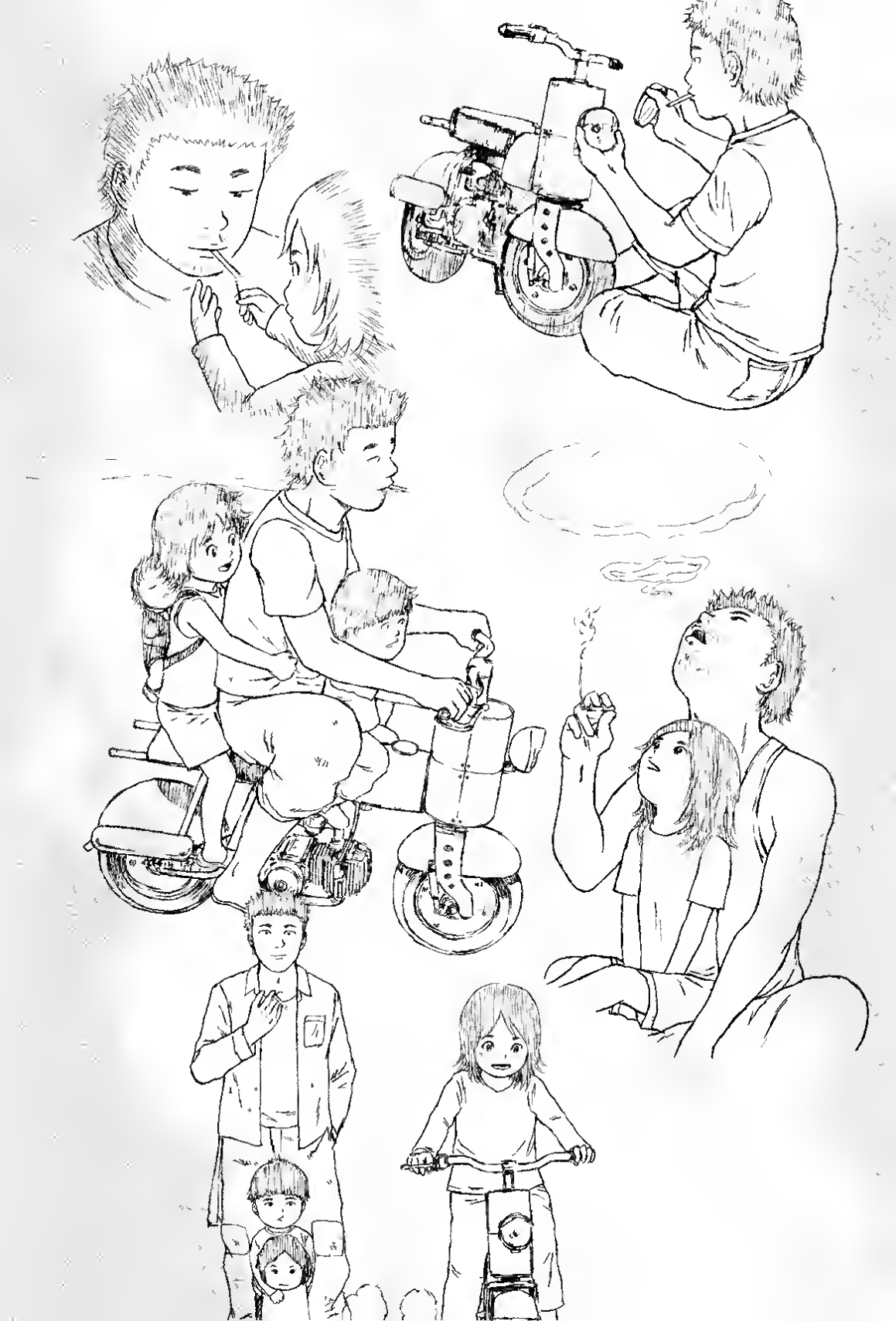

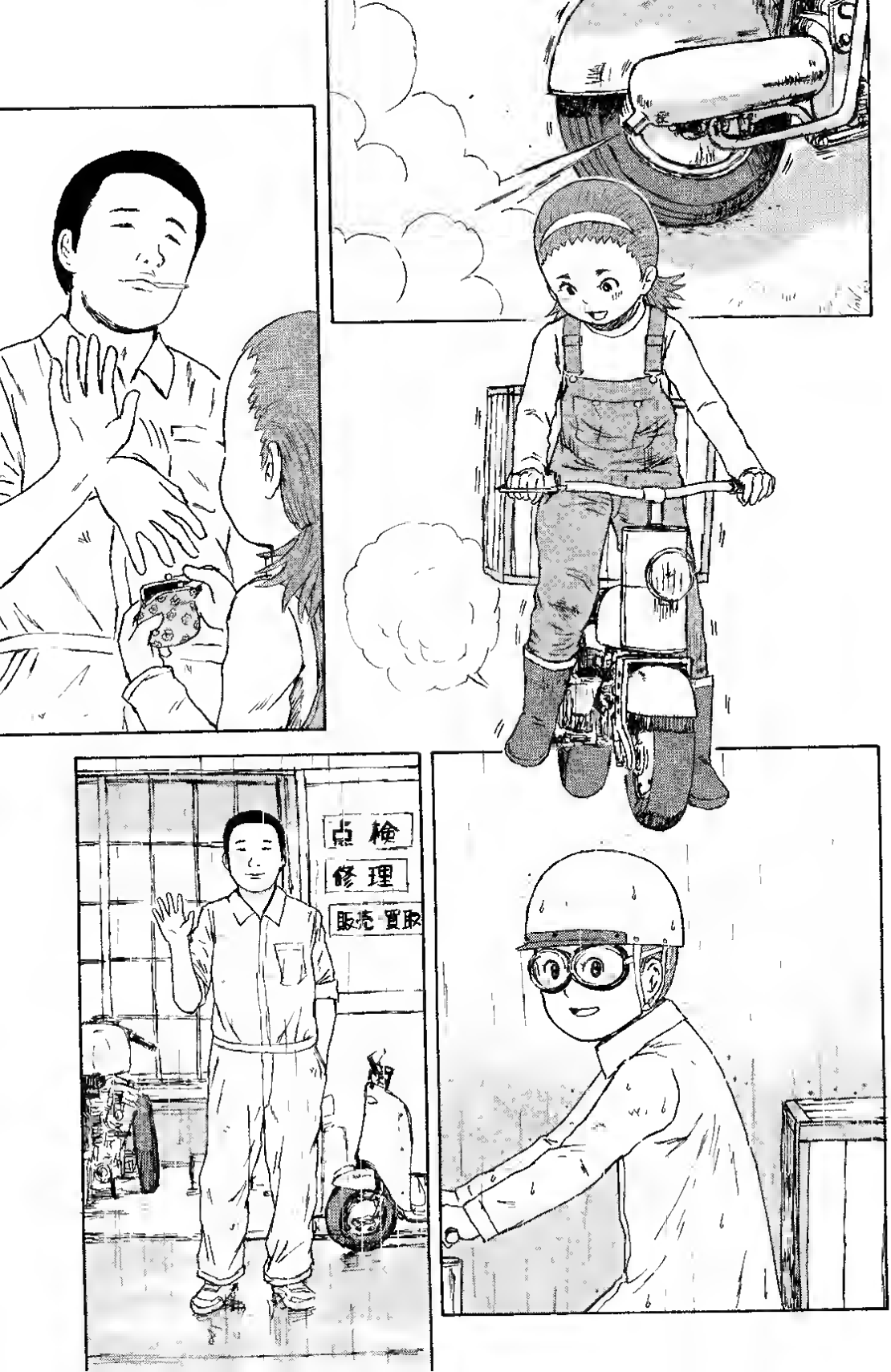
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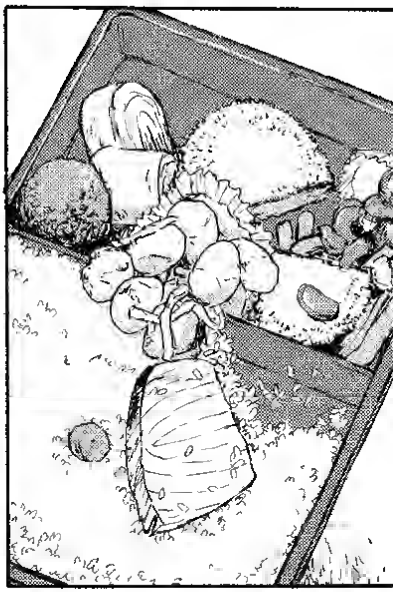

おわり